GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

It is Finished!!!

On the Cross that first Good Friday, Jesus declared it is finished, and it was. All sins ever were paid in full. No longer did Satan have the right to hold your sins before you and claim you as his own. Because of the work of Jesus the clear message you and I were not to be held accountable for that which we could never do. If it were dependent on us to pay for our sins, If we had to earn our forgiveness, we would be eternally lost.

But yet we continue to read God's Word. We continue to celebrate the Sacraments. We continue to look to the commandments for guidance in our day to day life. If it is finished, then why do we continue to do these things. If we have no hope of earning one peace of forgiveness, why worry about Loving the Lord Your God with all your Heart with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. Why would we even consider loving our neighbor as ourselves? Especially if we know we will never do them perfectly?

We continue to do these things as a way to thank God for all He has done. We continue to do these things so that others who either do not yet know Jesus or do not understand Him might see His light shining through us and by the power of the Holy Spirit might come to faith in Jesus.

Like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes don't understand what He wants. Like His disciples sometimes we want to tell Jesus how it's going to be. And like Jesus' disciples He has patients with us and forgiveness for us. Like Jesus disciples, we have the opportunity to share the message of mercy with the world around us. Why?

Because it is Finished. Jesus has bought and paid for us with His precious blood, with innocent suffering and with His love.

In Christ,

Pastor Nix

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BIRTHDAYS

April

04 Sarah Deutsch
10 Matthew Arlton
11 David Wetzel
13 Phyllis Monson
14 Sadrine Na Kirindo
14 Jay Wehking
17 Cherie Zehendner
22 Dustin Preheim
23 Alia Robison
26 Jordan Brack
26 Samuel Fick
26 Victor Wedeking

ANNIVERSARIES

April

14 Phil & Monica Andreasen
19 Les & Vickie Britson
24 Melanie & Ryan Hericks

FLOWER CHART

The 2024 Flower Chart is pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who would like to provide altar flowers for a particular Sunday.

If you have any questions about providing flowers, please contact Cherie Zehendner.

Issues, Etc.
Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian
www.issuesetc.org

Sacred Music 24/7
lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

April 7 ~ Second Sunday of Easter, "In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God's approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have 'fallen asleep in Him' shall be raised to life eternal." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 14 ~ Third Sunday of Easter, "So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life." *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 21 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter, "Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 28 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter, "It is He who sustains us each and every day. It is He who brings us into the world, and He who draws our earthly lives to a close at the proper time. It is He who was born for us, He who died for us, He who rose for us, and He who reigns on high for us. His is the pattern of our lives." *Deaconess Bethany Stoever, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – April 2024

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor's possessions are his: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

O Sons and Daughters of the King

Lutheran Service Book 470/471 | study by Paul Gregory Alms

Introduction

When a mom or dad speaks, children listen. That is the expectation. When there are times of danger or discipline, a parent raises his voice and warns or scolds his child. The tone and volume of the parent's voice tells his son or daughter to pay attention. What a parent says is important for a child to hear.

But it is not only in situations of discipline or danger that a parent might cry out to his family. It also happens in moments of great joy. A mom wants to share her joy and calls her children to come and join her in her happiness. That is what is going on in the hymn "O Sons and Daughters of the King." The Church is calling out to her children to rejoice. We, the sons and daughters of the King, are addressed by

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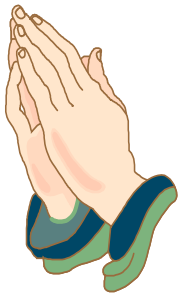
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 4, 2024

	01/2024	02/2024	03/2024
Deposits:	$ 12,424.40	$ 14,533.25	$ 34,978.31
Disbursements:	$ 19,429.38	$ 19,067.32	$ 13,833.29
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 12,317.40	$ 14,341.50	$ 24,662.31
Designated Funds:	$ 107.00	$ 191.75	$ 10,316.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 04/04			$ 66,675.89



IN OUR PRAYERS

Janice Gentz (Lynette Wedeking's mother, recovery from stroke
Kris Deardoff, (Carl's mother), Health
Les Britson, at home for recovery
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and Healing
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson at home

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the Church to rejoice at the wonderful events of Easter. All the Church is called to hear and share in the joy of Christ's resurrection.

❙ Have you ever thought of yourself as a son or daughter of the King? Who is that King? When do we become His children? How does that relate to Easter?

Exploring the Scriptures

The Scripture texts that form the basis for this hymn are the resurrection stories in Mark 16 and John 20. In fact, the hymn is a rather straightforward rendering of the stories in these Gospels, especially the portions in Mark 16:5–7 and John 20:19–29. It is almost like a sung Bible study. The hymn text presents the stories and their meaning simply and directly.

Stanza 1 introduces the hymn by addressing the worshiping congregation directly as "sons and daughters of the King." The concluding stanza returns to this address by inviting the congregation to raise hearts and voices to God. In between these first and last stanzas, the stories from Mark and John are told. Read Mark 16:5–7.

❙ Whom do the women see when they enter the tomb? While there is said to be a "young man," it is clear he is an angel.

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What are "ceremonies"?

The word "ceremony" comes from the Latin word that means "ritual." Ceremonies are the actions associated with the words we use in worship. For example, when the Pastor says "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" you may see people making the sign of the cross. Making the sign of the cross is a ceremony. Can you think of other ceremonies that occur during the Divine Service?

Why do we have ceremonies?

Ceremonies help to keep things reverent and in good order during worship, but **their main purpose is to teach the faith through sight, sound and action.** For example, when we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded of our Baptism. At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified! Ceremonies also show what a congregation believes. You can learn a lot about a church by the ceremonies in their worship.

Parents: The Lutheran Confessions say: "The purpose of observing ceremonies is that men may learn the Scriptures," and "the chief purpose of all ceremonies is to teach the people what they need to know about Christ." If you have questions about the ceremonies of your church, ask your pastor. He will be happy to explain them!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2024

- April 20 Women's Brunch, 10am
- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 12 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- June 09 Voters Meeting
- July 21-25 VBS
- Sept 08 Voters Meeting
- Nov 03 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 1 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 08, 15, 22 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 08: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec TBA Children's Christmas Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



Women's Brunch

All the Women of Christ Lutheran—We are holding a brunch for the women of Christ and a female member of their family on Saturday, April 20th at 10 am. There will be good food, devotion, fellowship and some mixers. Please RSVP to Barbara Wetzel by Sunday, April 14th, by phone 605-777-2196 or by email: barbsemail3346@gmail.com



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What is his message?

- What does he say about Jesus?

- While Jesus is not in the tomb, where does the angel say the disciples will be able to find Him?
- How does Mark 14:28 help us to understand where Jesus will meet the disciples?
- Where does the risen Jesus promise to meet us today?

Read John 20:19–28. There are two Sundays mentioned here. The first is Easter Sunday itself. The next is a week later.

- The text says on that first night the disciples were afraid. What were the first words out of Jesus' mouth when He came to them in that room? How would that have comforted the disciples?
- How does Thomas react when the disciples tell him that Christ has risen? Are we ever like Thomas? How? Why?
- What does Jesus do to remove Thomas's doubts?
- What blessing does Jesus give to those who believe without seeing? Are we included in that blessing? How?

Exploring the Hymn
Background
Although this hymn is attributed to Jean Tisserand (d. 1494), a popular French Franciscan preacher of the 17th century, it is doubtful that he was the author. The roots of the hymn text stretch back to the early 1500s, when a Latin poem was published under the title "A Joyous Chant for the Time of Easter." That poem was translated into French sometime in the 17th century and used in liturgical settings in France. It was used there on Easter evening in the Roman Catholic Mass.

The English text is from the pen of John Mason Neale (1818–66), a hymn writer and translator whose work is reflected in 22 of the hymns in Lutheran Service Book. Neale was an Anglican priest in England who wrote and translated many hymns. There are many English translations of this hymn, but his has become the standard English text.

- Notice how this hymn originated in 16th-century Latin, became popular in Catholic France, was translated by an Englishman and now is sung by American Lutherans in the 21st century. What does this tell you about the Church's hymnody? Is it a strength or a weakness that our hymns have such varied origins?

Text
Stanzas 2 and 3 of the hymn focus on Mark 16:5–7. The two stanzas condense and tell the story of the women going to the tomb to look for Jesus. They encounter an angel who announces that Jesus has risen and that He will go and meet the disciples in Galilee. There is in this short story surprise and promise.

- How are the women surprised by the angel's announcement? What had they expected to find?
- What promise does the angel make?

Stanzas 4–8 recount the appearance of Jesus in the Upper Room as told in John 20. It is a literal and close telling of the story in poetic form.

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- Read stanza 4 and try to imagine yourself in that Upper Room. What change in emotion might have occurred when Christ appeared and spoke?
- Why do you think Thomas doubted the apostles' proclamation? Was he wrong to want to see Jesus' wounds?

Notice how Jesus' wounds have become a source of rejoicing and faith. The terrible scene of crucifixion has now become, after the resurrection, the source of faith and joy for believers.

- How does Thomas react when he sees Jesus' hands and feet and side?
- What does he say about Jesus?

Making the Connection

This hymn text is a strong recitation of the story of Christ's resurrection and His appearances to the women and to the disciples in the Upper Room. The challenge for us is to find ourselves in the story. After all, the hymn addresses us and calls us to sing and rejoice.

There are several points where we can "jump right in" and see ourselves in this hymn.

- "Galilee" (st. 3): Christ promises to meet His followers in Galilee. Where is our Galilee? Where does our risen Lord promise to meet us?
- "Fear" (st. 4): The apostles were afraid before Christ appeared. What fears do we have? How does our sin and this sinful world isolate us? When do we hear "Peace be with you" (st. 4) from Jesus? How is our worship experience similar to the Upper Room experience of the disciples?
- "They who have not seen" (st. 8): We are those who have not seen! How does God bring us to faith? How does the word of the apostles that Thomas doubted bring us to faith?

In Closing

We are sons and daughters of the King. Through Baptism into His death and resurrection, Christ has made us to be children of our heavenly Father. He comes among us and dispels our fear as He did that very first Easter morning. With His word of peace and His presence among us, we are enabled to confess Him as "Lord and God" as Thomas did. So, we can follow the hymn's directive and raise to God "laud and jubilee and praise" (st. 9)!

- Read aloud or sing together LSB 470 or 471.

Prayer

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter).

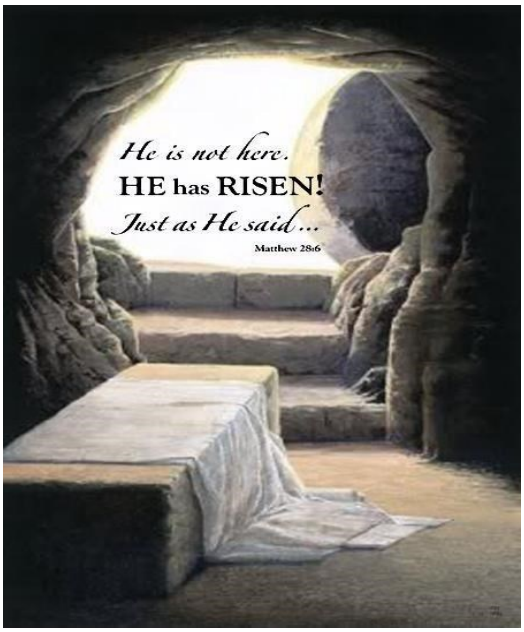
Sermon Text and Titles for April

April 7th, ***Jesus Brings Peace*** St John 20:19, 26
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 33
1 John 5:4-10
St. John 20:19-31

April 14th ***Jesus Protects His Flock*** St. John 10:11, 16
Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:21-25
St/ John 10: 11-16

April 21st **TBA** TBA
Lamentations 3:22-33
Psalm 147:1-11
1 Peter 2:11-20
St. John 16:16-22

April 28th ***What Jesus Does is for Your Advantage*** St. John 16:7
Isaiah 12:1-6
Psalm 66:1-8
James 1:16-21
St. John 16:5-15



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