



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 4 Issue 4

From the Desk of Rev. Samuel Beltz

The Resurrection as Vindication of Jesus' Identity and Authority

In his sermon on Mark 16:1-8, Luther recounts how the women came to the tomb expecting to anoint a dead body. Instead, the angel declares: "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Christ did not rise by the help of angels or human power. He burst forth from the grave by His own divine authority, before the stone was rolled away or the women arrived.

Luther stresses that this was no illusion. Jesus truly died under the judgment of God for the sins of the world. That is, no one believed he was a gift from God—the GREAT GIFT. The cross appeared as defeat—His claims to be the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Savior seemed shattered. Yet on the third day, the Father raised Him, publicly vindicating every word Jesus had spoken. Death could not hold the Holy One because sin, death and hell had no rightful claim on Him.

This vindication declares Jesus' full authority. He is not merely a teacher or prophet among many. He is the Lord who has conquered. In His resurrection, Christ triumphed over the devil, who once held the power of death through sin. Luther paints the scene vividly: the devil thought he had won at Calvary, but Christ rose and led the devil captive. Now, seated at the right hand of the Father, Jesus reigns with all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). His word stands forever. His promises are certain. The empty tomb is God's seal that Jesus is exactly who He claimed to be—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the firstborn from the dead.

This is central to our confession. In the creeds we declare, "The third day He rose again from the dead." This article is the chief one upon which our salvation rests. Without the resurrection, faith is vain and we remain in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). But because Christ is risen, His identity as true God and true man is confirmed, and His authority to forgive sins is established for all who believe.

Implications for Our Daily Life: Living as Those Who Will Rise

Luther does not leave the resurrection in the past. He applies it forcefully to our daily struggles. Because Christ rose for our justification, we are declared righteous before God. Sin no longer reigns as master. Though we still feel its pull and the sting of death in this fallen world, faith clings to the promise: "If Christ, my Lord, has overcome my sin and trodden it under foot by his resurrection, wherefore should I fear?"

This changes how we live each day. United with Christ in Baptism, we walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). The old Adam is daily drowned through repentance, and the new man rises to serve God in righteousness. The same power that raised Jesus works in us through the Word and Sacraments, strengthening us against temptation, doubt, and suffering. When the devil accuses, we point to the empty tomb. When trials press, we remember that Christ has overcome the world.

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Adult Bible Study/
Sunday School
10:15am
- Confirmation 12:00pm
- Monday Night Bible
Study 6:00pm
- Wednesday Coffee
Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture
Study 9 am
- Wednesday Night
Senior High Youth
Group 5:30pm

Special Activities:

- LWM April 2 @
9:30am
- Elders April 2 @ 6pm

April Duties:

Elder

Brad Sickels

Altar Guild

Myrna Anthony
Betty Mc Williams

Acolyte

Jack Rice

Processional Cross

4/26 Beckett Vanderwilt

Greeter

Judy Webb

Hospitality

4/12 Tara Crile & Sue George
4/19 Pickett's
4/26 Sara Anderson &
Lisa Forschler

Ushers

4/5 Early-Adam & Nolan
McKain
4/5 Late- Marty George &
Tony Karavitis
4/12 Alan Pickett &
Malachi Schauer
4/19 Curt Jager & Gabe Hoy
4/26 Marty George &
Lawrence Smith

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, and cleaning crew last month.

This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.

LWML NEWS

LWML will have a Work Day & Business meeting on April 2 @ 9:30am.

With Devotions on The Sinking Feeling.
Bible Study with Pastor

Hostesses will be Tamra VanHaaften & Karen Westercamp

All Women are welcome to join us.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the Month. Please remember to bring your mites and put in the LWML box.



Please include in your prayers daily



Sean Strothman, Luke Letzring, Rod Hacker, Karen Westercamp, Tamra Van Haaften and Ann Ohms.



Prayers for the Mocks for: strengthening of relationships at our local church with both existing and newcomers, **wise technology decisions** the improve effectiveness of both Luther Academy and the Eurasia Region, **language learning, activities and friendships** for Eva and Moriah



For those in Isreal, Ukraine, Russia, Uvalde and other places suffering from acts of senseless violence;



For those serving in our Armed Forces and for our Police Officers and Fire Fighters; may they remain safe in their service;



For the many that continue to struggle with isolation and loneliness; For those directly and in directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine; For the many who continue to struggle with natural disasters and bad storms;



For our Church, that God would continue to grant us new members and make us a good gift to each other and our community;



For us as a congregation to faithfully receive God's good gifts this day.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

MacKenzie Anthony 4-15
Julie Rice 4-24
Lincoln Duffy 4-25
Fred Reineke 4-26
Evan Anderson 4-29
Leo King 4-30

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

Ryan & Rachel Carr
4-25-2020

Quarterly Voters Meeting

April 12
following Church Service

There will also be a light brunch served please bring something to share.

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Luther especially comforts those facing death or grief. The resurrection assures us that we are linked with Christ so intimately that His victory avails for us. “His resurrection is ours,” Luther proclaims, “and we will also rise with Him and not remain in death and the grave, but that in our bodies also we will celebrate an eternal Easter with Him.” Our own resurrection has already begun in our Head, Jesus Christ. It is as certain as if it had already happened, though still hidden.

This hope sustains daily life. We do not live as those without hope. We serve our neighbors in love, knowing our labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). We gather for worship, receiving the body and blood of the risen Christ for forgiveness and strength. We teach our children the Gospel, confess the faith boldly, and face the future with confidence. Even in sorrow, we hear the angel’s word: “He is risen!”—not for Himself alone, but for us.

Luther reminds us that faith must often stand against feeling. We may still feel sin and the shadow of death, but we disregard mere sensation and cling to the preached Word. The Gospel testifies that Christ rose to remove sin, death, and all evil from those who believe. As soon as the heart grasps this, peace enters: Christ has conquered, and we share in His triumph.

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. As winter yields to life, so the grave will yield to eternal spring for all who are in Christ. On the Last Day, our bodies—sown in weakness—will be raised in power, restored in glory, to live with Him forever in the new creation.

Rejoice and Live in This Hope

Let the voice of Luther from the Reformation echo in your hearts this Easter season. The resurrection vindicates Jesus as Lord and Savior. It declares us justified. And it guarantees that we too shall rise bodily from the dead to eternal life.

Therefore, rejoice! Sing the great Easter hymns with full voice. Comfort one another with these words. Live each day in resurrection—forgiven and destined for Christ’s glory. He is risen and so shall we! Alleluia!

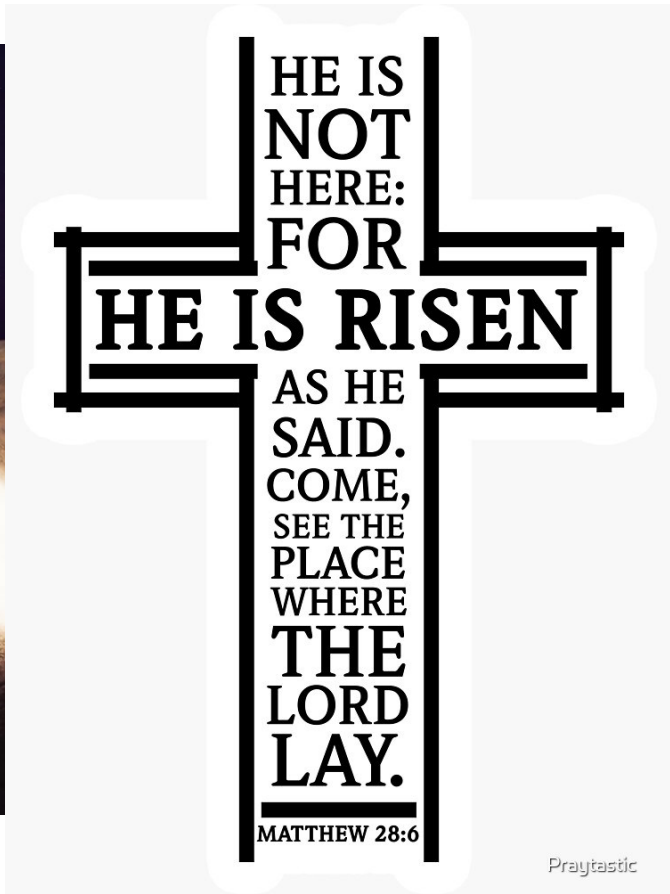
Pastor Beltz



HOLY WEEK
at St. John

- 1 APR** HOLY WEDNESDAY 5:30pm
- 2 APR** MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30pm
- 3 APR** GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE 5:30pm
- 5 APR** EASTER SUNDAY
Sunrise Service 6:30am
Easter Brunch 7:30am
Easter Day 9:00am

2370 Merino Ave, Oskaloosa IA



HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN AS HE SAID. COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD LAY.

MATTHEW 28:6

Praytastic



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As our church family grows, we're looking for new ways to support parents and care for our youngest members. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers to serve in the church nursery during Bible study hour. Our goal is to have one adult and one older youth scheduled each week. This allows one volunteer to step out to bring children to their parents when needed, while the other stays with the remaining children.

The more volunteers we have, the less often each person will need to serve — meaning everyone can still regularly attend Bible study.

This can also be a sweet opportunity for a you and your youth to serve together! If you're willing to help, please sign up on the nursery door or email the church office.

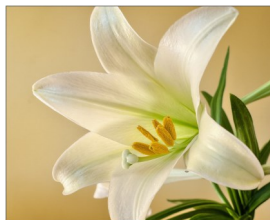


EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies: \$16.05

All Spring Flowers-\$11.00

If you would like to purchase flowers, please pick up a **special flower envelope** from the back. Circle the flower(s) you wish to order: **Easter Lily, Calla Lily, or Spring Flowers.** Please place the completed envelope in the **offering plate.**



Camp Scholarships

There is scholarship money available for those needing money to help cover the cost of camp. Please fill out a camp scholarship form from the office and return it by May 31



Goedeken Educational Scholarship Applications Now Available

It's time to apply for the Goedeken Educational Scholarships! Applications are now available in the church office. These scholarships are open to high school seniors and current college students.

The deadline for consideration is **April 1, 2026**, so be sure to pick up your application soon. We encourage all eligible students to apply!

April 2026

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Holy Wednesday Service 5:30pm Bulletin items due	2 LWML 9:30am Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm	3 Good Friday Service 5:30pm	4
5 6:30am Easter Sunrise Divine Service With Communion 7:30am Pot Luck Breakfast 9:00am Easter Divine Service with Communion	6	7	8 Bulletin items due	9 Council Meeting 6pm	10	11 LWML Spring Rally in Lacona @ 9:00am
12 9am Matins 10:15am Voters Meeting 12:00 pm Confirmation	13 6:00pm Monday Night Bible Study	14	15 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Youth Group Bulletin items due	16	17	18
19 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study/ Sunday School 12:00 pm Confirmation	20	21	22 Bulletin items due	23	24	25
	Pastor out of the Office April 20- 22					
26 9:00am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study/ Sunday School 12:00pm Confirmation	27	28	29 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Youth Group Bulletin items due	30		

