



# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times April 2022

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein



*The Pastor's Perspective.....* 

### Easter: An Ancient Celebration of New Life

People often ask me why the date of Easter moves around so much year to year. Christmas comes around every December 25; why is Easter so hard to pin down? The answer is that Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, which means it can land as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. That's a great piece of liturgical trivia to know, but it also reveals something beautiful about Easter: it's directly connected to the rhythms of the natural world. My friend Susan Palo Cherwien put it this way:

Passover and Pascha [Easter in English] are both related to the word "passage" – a passage from death to life, from winter to spring, from bondage to freedom, from barrenness to newness. This holy day marking the rising of Christ from the grave is the only Christian festival whose date is determined by both the movement of the sun and the movement of the moon, representing those elemental creative energies of day and night, darkness and light.

This year, the Jewish festival of Passover will begin on April 15, the date of the first full moon after the spring equinox, and our celebration of Easter will occur on the following Sunday, April 17. On that day, we will gather to celebrate the mystery at the heart of our faith: Christ's victory over sin and death. It's a day so special we've spent 40 days preparing for it! This year, as we come to Easter, may we be reminded how ancient and sacred this festival day is, and how it connects us to a long history of faithful people.

This year, we'll re-introduce a practice to St. Luke that is also deeply rooted in Christian history: lighting a paschal candle. (Examples below.) This practice traces all the way back to the fifth or sixth century, when Christians began lighting a new wax candle at Easter. The candle is new each year because it is lit with the "new" fire representing the resurrection of Christ, the light of the world. The candle is inscribed with a cross, an *alpha* and *omega* (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), and the current year. The candle declares that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity! As we introduce the candle, we'll say: "Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages. To Christ belongs glory and dominion, now and forever. Amen."

At Easter, we do not simply recall a one-time event of Christ's death and resurrection. We proclaim that the risen Christ is truly present with us even today. The paschal candle will stand near the altar and be lit every liturgy through the 50 days of Easter, until Pentecost. After that, it is lit for baptisms and funerals, as a reminder of our baptismal connection to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:5-10). I hope this candle will be a powerful reminder for us that the light of Christ can never be extinguished.

Blessings to you as you enter the final days of your Lenten journey, and may the joy of Easter uplift your hearts!

Pr. Bristol





## LENT & HOLY WEEK

### Worship for Lent and Holy Week Worship

Join us for worship in-person or online this Lent/Easter season; a 40-day journey to Holy Week as we accompany Jesus through the final days of his ministry on his way to the cross.

Wednesdays in Lent: 6:30 pm on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6

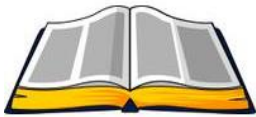
Palm Sunday: 9:30 am on April 10

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm on April 14 14

Good Friday: 7:00 pm on April 15

Easter Sunday: 9:30 am on April 17

### April Scripture Readers



#### Sundays:

- 3 Emily Elfritz
- 10 Wendy Bjorklund
- 17 Mike Hegdahl
- 24 Kay Reich

#### Good Friday, 4/15:

- Wendy Bjorklund
- Mike Hegdahl
- Barb Jensen
- Jo Klein
- Christine Olson
- Kay Reich



**All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke**, the first and third Fridays of the month, (April 1 and April 15) at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



#### LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our March Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Joyce Bluel, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.

### BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for April: Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, and Julie Ellingson.



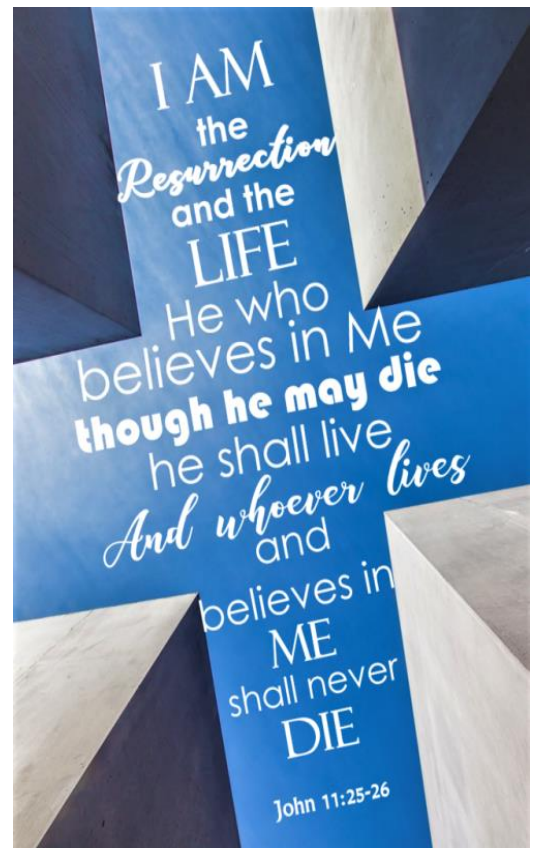
### April Birthdays

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder
- 7 Michael Arndt
- 11 Samuel Elliott
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 26 Abby Klein
- 30 Eddie McGrew



### April Anniversaries

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger
- 8 David & Nahoko Person
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz
- 24 Raul and Becca Ruiz
- 25 Bob & Pam Ballis



## President's Corner



Welcome Spring!

As I was thinking about this month's newsletter article, I came across a quote by Martin Luther..." Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

This year, spring has more meaning than in years past. Not only are we emerging from the cold and dark winter days, but also we are on the journey of emerging from this pandemic. We still have a way to go, but it feels like we can see the light at the end of this very long tunnel. We are slowly, safely, and surely moving in the right direction with our Worship Services and spending time together as a congregation. I am fortunate to be able to work with our new pastor and the council members, all of whom have many thoughts and ideas that can bring our congregation closer together, not only in person, but also through technology. Recently Pastor Bristol applied for a technology grant through the St. Paul Synod and we are hoping and praying that St. Luke may be a recipient of one of these grants.

The council will continue to monitor the pandemic, but please continue to follow all of the public health recommendations for keeping safe, and trust that God is watching over us.

The gift of Easter is hope and re-birth and it is never more visible than in spring.

Happy Easter,

Nancy Hegdahl



**Last week to order your Gertens Bedding Plants!** Finally, spring is right around the corner. Orders will be taken online, as we did for the Easter flower fundraiser. To access the site and place an order for our fundraiser group:

Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com). Enter the Store ID code **135** into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.

Our site is now open and **will close at 10 PM on Thursday, April 7**. We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on our website and you will not be able to continue to order that item. Get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability!

Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Monday, March 14: Open online ordering

Thursday, April 7: Close online ordering

Saturday, May 14: Pick-up of bedding plants: 10am to noon.

Sunday, May 15: Pick-up of bedding plants: 10:30am to 11am.