



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times April 2019

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

#### **The Difficulty of Holy Week | Pr. John Keller**

In our American culture, Holy Week, and especially Easter, is not celebrated the same as Christmas. Our secular society embraces the Christmas story and the pageantry around it. The story of the Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, stable and baby Jesus is one that many understand and enjoy. Nearly everyone celebrates the birth of a baby.

Holy Week has a totally different vibe. First there is the strange parade as Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. Couldn't he at least have chosen a white stallion? Then there is the cleansing of the temple, confrontation with the temple officials, the washing of his disciples feet (would you wash your friends feet before dinner?) and the shocking words, "This cup is my blood, shed for you." Many of us have heard these words so often that they no longer grab our attention and force us to ask, "What is going on?"

Good Friday pushes us to the depths as Jesus is arrested, mocked, whipped, crucified and buried. Such a story is beyond our daily comprehension.

Then comes Easter with its challenges. Easter morning with the empty tomb and the various accounts in the four Gospels as to who was where when can be most confusing. Each of the Gospels has a different perspective. St. Mark has only the women and no Jesus. St. Luke has Jesus appearing to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and then disappearing. St. John has Peter and John racing the empty tomb, but they find only burial clothes. Other than the empty tomb, the stories shift like dreams into different patterns.

A humble birth makes sense; a resurrection from the dead does not.

Frederick Buechner has written a helpful word on Easter in his book *Beyond Words*.

*Easter is not a major production at all and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add to it nor subtract from it. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt. (p. 91)*

The unimaginable has happened. Jesus has risen from the dead. We may never fully comprehend all that this means, but we can be messengers of this truth for the world. Like the women at the tomb, we may be confused, unsure, even afraid. Yet we continue to have the same task, to go and tell, even as we wonder at the mystery.

How has the message of Holy Week changed your perspective or life? Which part challenges your faith and which part gives you strength?

Prayer: Lord God, though my mind may never fully comprehend the depth and height of your death and resurrection, continue to fill my heart with the awe and power of Easter.



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for April: Alek and Volker Landenberger, Doug Klein, Ben Pilgrim, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, Ava and Rob Herrmann.

A big thank you to our April Bun Run volunteers: Doug and Jo Klein, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl.



Finally, Spring is right around the corner! Time to make plans to beautify your yard. St. Luke Church will be selling Gertens bedding plants and flowers after worship soon. Dates to be announced. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



### congregational meeting



**Mark the Date: Sunday, May 5th** is our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship. We need and value your input...please plan on participating.

### Lent, Holy Week and Easter

- Midweek Lenten Worship, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10  
6:45pm Holden Evening Worship with Video Series
- Maundy Thursday, April 18  
7pm Worship
- Good Friday, April 19  
7pm Worship
- Easter Sunday, April 21  
8am worship  
9am breakfast; egg hunt to follow



### April Birthdays

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder
- 7 Michael Arndt
- 11 Samuel Elliott
- 14 Larry Vigdal
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 22 Vivien Cendra
- 26 Gladys Byrnes  
Jen Fredrickson  
Abby Klein
- 30 Eddie McGrew



### April Anniversaries

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger
- 7 Mary Dybvig/Mel Sward
- 8 David & Nahoko Person
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz
- 24 Raul and Becca Ruiz
- 25 Bob & Pam Ballis

### EASTER BREAKFAST

Our annual Easter Breakfast fundraiser (April 21 at 9am) will be raising money for Out of the Darkness, a suicide awareness organization, in loving memory of Teagan Burchill Riley. **We need several volunteers who can help set up and prepare food the Saturday before Easter at 10:30 am, and serve and clean up on Sunday.** No one person has to do it all. If you are interested in helping with this important event, please email Jo Klein asap at [jojoklen@gmail.com](mailto:jojoklen@gmail.com).



### April WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Readers

- 7 Wendy Bjorklund
- 14 Laurie Herrmann
- 19 Beth Peterson
- 21 David Nedrelov
- 28 Barb Jensen

#### Communion

- 7 Wendy Bjorklund
- 21 Kay Reich



**Ladies Night Out** April will take place on Tuesday, April 16th at Chili's, 1800 Beam Ave., Maplewood at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in carpooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, April 14th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

### Annual Gertens Flower Fundraiser:

Flowers will be delivered to church on April 20. If you wish, you may leave your flower purchases at church to use for our glorious floral display for Easter Day (April 21). You may take your flowers home after the Easter service. Thank you!



### April Acolytes

- 7 Alek Landenberger
- 21 Ava Herrmann



### LOAVES AND FISHES

95 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious meal at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on Feb. 25. Workers from St. Luke were Katy Eggert, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Pastor John and the confirmation students from St. Luke and St. Mark.