



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times April 2015

*So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:8*



I have always appreciated the resurrection account found in the Gospel of Mark. Maybe it's because I think I would have reacted the same way. I think it is a very natural reaction. Can you imagine seeing a loved one lowered into the grave and then coming back a day or two later to find the grave open, with some guy in a white outfit sitting *in the grave!*? Why would anyone do that? It would have scared the daylights out of me. I don't think I would have even stuck around to hear his explanation. I would have been out of there, like a scared rabbit. Yet the women stayed long enough to hear the fantastic news, he has risen. It shocked and bewildered them. It still shocks and bewilders people. As Paul wrote, some people see it as pure foolishness. But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.... *the power of God....* It is something that goes beyond our experiences, understanding and comprehension. But there it is, the power of God in the midst of us, taking us by the hand, we who mysteriously enter this life and just as mysteriously exit it, showing us the way, once again...to life. Thanks be to God. Come worship and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Pr. Dave



### April Acolytes:

5: Alek Landenberger, 9:30AM  
 19: Maggie Erickson

The Easter Breakfast (April 5, 8:00 a.m.) will benefit the Youth Group Workcamp summer mission trip. Great food, great cause...please join us! And thanks for your support!



### Loaves and Fishes

82 very hungry men, women, teens and children enjoyed a very good meal on February 23 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Workers were Pastor Dave, Joyce Bluel and Roger and Dianne Diestler. Anyone interested in coming to help prepare food, or just to help serve, please contact Pastor Dave for details.



**Ladies Night Out** – Ladies Night Out in April will take place on Tuesday, April 21st at Applebee's, 1753 S. Robert St., West St. Paul at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in car pooling, 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 12th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

**Mark the Date: Sunday, May 3rd** is our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship. We need and value your input...please plan on participating.





### Micro-Lending Dinner and Meeting on April 13

On Monday, April 13, 6:30PM let's gather for a delicious dinner (\$5.00 a piece), followed by making micro-loans to people all over the world. Everyone is welcome! If you have never joined us, there is no obligation involved, just come, have a delicious meal and help us decide how much we will loan out to a variety of people all over the world. Please sign up on the kiosk so we know how much food to order.

-Pr Dave



Come one, come all to another of our popular bowling outings at Sun Ray Bowling Lanes, 2245 Hudson Road, St. Paul (651-735-3222) on Sunday, April 12th @ 2p.m. A family package is \$39.99 per lane (max 6 bowlers). That would be under \$7 per person, which includes shoe rental, a pitcher of pop and two hours of bowling. A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk. Any questions, please contact Mike Hegdahl 651-699-0499 or at mhegdahl93@gmail.com. JOIN US!



### Lunch and Fun with Highland Friendship Club

On Sunday, April 26, the members of Highland Friendship Club are going to join us after worship, at about 11 a.m. for lunch, fun, and entertainment here at St. Luke. This will be a time for us to get to know them better and them us. As I write this, we are in the beginning stages of planning this lunch and fun, but we will get more information out in the coming weeks. Plan on GREAT food (a potluck?), fellowship and fun. Please count on being there, welcoming, eating, laughing and getting to know these wonderful people. -Pr. Dave



Please join us for Holy Week Worship:  
Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2, 7PM  
Good Friday Worship, April 3, 7PM  
Easter Sunday Worship, April 5,  
7AM – Youth Led Service  
9:30AM – Traditional Service  
Also on Easter: Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast at 8AM and Egg Hunt at 9AM...join us!



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for March: Mike Hegdahl, Joan Wilson, Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein.

**We need lilies and/or flowering plants** for our annual Easter garden display. Can you help? Every bloom counts. Let's make this our most glorious display ever! Please bring your floral offerings to church on 11:00 on Saturday, April 4. Please feel free to stay and help with arranging the flowers to decorate the Easter cross. You may take your flowers home to enjoy after the 9:30 Easter Sunday Service.





### April Birthdays:

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder, Joshua Stadem
- 7 Michael Arndt,
- 8 Collin Kroschel
- 11 Samuel Elliott
- 14 Larry Vigdal
- 15 Riley Miller
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 24 John Fabie
- 26 Abby Klein, Gladys Byrnes
- 30 Eddie McGrew



### April Anniversaries:

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger: 2003
- 8 David & Nahoko Person: 1978
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz: 1990
- 25 Bob & Pam Ballis: 1992

### April Worship Assistants:

#### Readers:

Good Friday, 4/3, 7PM:

Wendy Bjorklund  
 Katy Eggert  
 Barb Jensen  
 Sue McNeill  
 Beth Peterson  
 Dan Vigdal

Easter Sunday, 4/5, 7AM:

GWC Youth

Easter Sunday, 4/5, 9:30AM:

Barb Jensen  
Sunday, 4/12, 9AM

Laurie Herrmann  
Sunday, 4/19, 9AM

Joyce Bluel  
Sunday, 4/26, 9AM

Wendy Bjorklund

#### Communion:

Easter Sunday, 4/5, 7AM:

GWC Youth

Easter Sunday, 4/5, 9:30AM:

Katy Eggert  
Sunday, 4/19, 9AM

Joyce Bluel



### BOOK AND BAKE SALE: SUNDAY, MAY 17!

We will be hosting a Book and Bake Sale on Sunday, May 17, 1-4pm. We need to start collecting books now. Please bring them to church. We will need both paperback and hardcover...all ages. If you would like to help coordinate, please contact coordinator Sue McNeill. Any meetings we have this year will be to brainstorm about how we want to set this up, advertise, etc. This will also be a great event to announce Vacation Bible School. New events need new ideas and all are welcome.



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for March: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert. Our ushers for April will be: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Peter Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Rob Herrmann.

Spring is right around the corner...finally! Time to make plans to beautify your yard. The Group Workcamp youth will be selling bedding plants and flowers on April 12. The plants/flowers will be available for pick up on Wednesday, May 20 or Sunday, May 24. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH!**



Victor and his dad Volker were all smiles at the Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction in February. Thank you, one and all, for supporting the Group Workcamp 2015 Mission Trip!

## **Study Notes for the Sundays in April**

Below are some notes for your study and meditation on the Sunday gospel texts in April. Please take time to read the gospel and the notes. Try reading them on Monday and think and pray about them through the week, going back to them day by day until Sunday worship. Let God's Word be your companion throughout the week. –Pr. Dave

### **April 5: Easter Day, Mark 16:1-8**

“When is an ending not the end? When a dead man rises from the tomb—and when a gospel ends in the middle of a sentence” –Williamson

Dr. Donald Juel writes, “There is no stone at the mouth of the tomb. Jesus is out, on the loose, on the same side of the door as the women and the readers....God is no longer safely behind the curtain.”

Three women, Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:3), Mary the mother of James (Mark 15:40-41), and Salome brought spices to anoint Jesus' body when the Sabbath was over. Remember, this refers to the Jewish Sabbath, which traditionally begins a few minutes before sunset on Friday evening and goes until late Saturday night. Because of the Sabbath they could not anoint Jesus' body on Friday evening soon after his death (But had his body already been anointed? Read Mark 14:3-8). So they watched where Jesus' body was laid and waited until the Sabbath was over (Mark 15:47). They waited until Sunday morning, the first day of the week. When the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. Tombs of that time were often just a hole cut out of a hill, with a rock rolled against the opening. A friend who visited the Holy Land said he was surprised to find that they aren't like a big cave, as is often depicted. One has to bend down to look inside a tomb. Still, the rock sealing the tomb was heavy and the women wondered how they would be able to move it so they could anoint Jesus' body. They were shocked, to say the least, when they found the rock rolled away. They looked inside and were alarmed to see a man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side. Can you imagine watching your loved one laid in a grave, then coming back to not only see the body gone, but some guy in white sitting in the tomb telling you not to be alarmed?! Who *wouldn't* be alarmed!? The man in white tells them that Jesus has been raised and is gone. Then he said, “But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you (Check out Mark 14:28). Why didn't he group Peter in with the other disciples (go tell his disciples and Peter). Was it because Peter betrayed Jesus and was no longer considered a disciple? Or was Peter mentioned by name to emphasize that Peter too was to be included, a sign of Jesus' forgiveness and deep grace? What do you think? After hearing this, the women fled in terror (who can blame them!) and amazement. And they said nothing to anyone because they were afraid. Do you know the command Jesus used the most with his disciples? “Do not be afraid.” What might have happened if the women were not afraid? How do you react when you are afraid? How can Jesus speak to that fear? How can the resurrection speak to those fears?

### **April 12: John 20:19-31**

John begins by setting the scene: It was the evening on *that day, the first day of the week*. This is the day of the resurrection. Jesus had been raised from the dead and appeared to a number of people. The disciples gathered that evening in a house, with doors locked for fear of the Jews. They were afraid they would be killed next. They were afraid. Then Jesus came and gave them the typical Jewish greeting of peace. He showed the disciples the scars on his hands and side, and once again greeted them with peace. All is complete. All is well (one of the meanings of peace). Then Jesus told them that he had been sent by the Father (something Jesus says 41 times in the Gospel of John!), and in the same way he sends them (and us). In effect, he commissions them to service in the name of God. Jesus breathed on them. This word “breath” can be translated in the Greek as “wind, breath, or spirit.” By breathing on them, Jesus bestowed the Holy Spirit on his disciples (something that happens in a different form at Pentecost, fifty days later). Finally, Jesus bestows on them the authority to forgive and retain sins (just as he does to us). We switch now to the second scene involving Thomas who did not witness any of this, nor did he believe his fellow disciples about the risen Lord. One week later, the Lord appears once again. Notice this time the doors aren't locked, just shut (26). Since meeting the risen Lord, fear has lost its grip on the disciples. Once again Jesus announces peace. All is complete. All is well. Jesus turns to Thomas and invites him to touch his wounds and so believe. Thomas answers with a confession of faith, “My Lord and my God!” Thomas and the other disciples were blessed with faith by coming face to face with the risen Jesus (Like Thomas, none of the other disciples believed until they met Jesus face to face – only Thomas gets the bum rap and moniker, “Doubting Thomas”). Jesus then says, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Some take this as a gentle slap, but others see this as Jesus placing later believers on the same plane as the original disciples. Indeed all people, whether then or now are blessed through their belief in Jesus. Fun fact: the writer of the Gospel of John NEVER uses the noun “faith,” only the verb, “to believe.” You will never find the word “faith” in John. John believed that believing is not like a noun, that is, static, unmoving; believing is like a verb, active, alive, moving, dynamic.

#### **April 19: Luke 24:36b-48**

This appearance of Jesus took place on Sunday, the day Jesus was resurrected. That day began when the women found the tomb empty (Luke 24:1-12), then Jesus appeared to the two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) and finally Jesus appeared to the disciples in today's gospel reading. It seems that Jesus appeared quite suddenly in the midst of them (like last week's gospel) and said, "Peace be with you." It was a beautiful greeting, but it scared the daylights out of the disciples. It says they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost! To help the disciples understand that he wasn't a ghost, and was in fact Jesus in the flesh, Jesus first showed them the scars on his hands and feet. At that time, many people believed the Greek notion that the soul was immortal, indestructible and disembodied. They believed it came to the body at birth and returned to God at death. If this were so, there would be no nail marks. Christians confess that the body is resurrected (think of the Apostle's Creed). Along these lines, someone once said that the only man-made object in heaven are the scars on Jesus' hands, feet, and side. Touching Jesus would also demonstrate that he was of flesh and blood, a human being, not a ghost. Yet even after touching him the disciples, "while still in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering." To answer this disbelief, Jesus asked them for something to eat, and he ate some fish. Ghosts don't eat... Jesus helped the disciples to believe. Although they all deserted him at the crucifixion, Jesus still loved them and helped them to believe. Sometimes we may need to pray, "Lord I believe. Help my unbelief!" After this Jesus reminds them of what he had previously told them, that all of Scripture pointed to him and must be fulfilled. Then it says he "opened their minds to understand the scriptures." This, and what I wrote above about Jesus helping the disciples to see and believe, remind me of what Luther wrote concerning the third article of the Apostles Creed. Luther wrote, "I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts and sanctified and kept me in true faith." Each one of us needs our Lord to keep us in the true faith. For this, we need our Lord as well as each other, for our Lord also speaks through each one of us. Jesus then tells the disciples that they are to be bearers of this good news, to proclaim repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20). The disciples, all of us, are included in God's salvific plan involving the Scripture, Jesus, and sharing that saving word, powered by the Holy Spirit.

#### **April 26: John 10:11-18**

Our gospel reading begins with Jesus saying, "I am the good shepherd." This is one of the seven "I am" sayings found in the Gospel of John. These are only found in John, not Matthew, Mark or Luke. The seven are: 1. Bread, 2. Light, 3. the Gate, 4. the Good Shepherd, 5. the Resurrection and the Life, 6. the Way, Truth, and Light, and 7. the True Vine. These "I am" sayings are a direct echo back to Exodus 3:14 where Moses is standing before the burning bush and asks God his name. The Lord replies saying, "I am who I am." When Jesus says, "I am" he is referring to himself as God. He did this one other time in John, when he said in John 8:58, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." This made some Jewish leaders so mad they tried to stone him! Jesus says he is the good shepherd...not just any old shepherd, but the good shepherd, the one who lays down his life for the sheep. He is the shepherd who cares so much for the sheep that he is willing to die for them. Jesus is then compared with the hired hand, who is only in it for the money. He says, "I just work here..." As soon as danger (like a wolf) approaches, or there is misfortune, the hired hand runs, leaving the sheep in danger, because he does not care what happens to them. But Jesus, the good shepherd, cares enough to offer his life. I wonder, what in our present life is like the hired hand, who would abandon us at the slightest whiff of danger or misfortune...and where do you see Jesus, willing to give his very life for you? In verse 14 we see Jesus repeat once again that he is the good shepherd. He means it! Jesus says that he knows his own and his own know him. Jesus knows his own....I think of Matthew 7:21-23 in which people say to Jesus, we cast out demons and prophesied in your name and Jesus saying, "I never knew you." What does it mean to be known by Jesus? 1 Corinthians 8:1b-3 says, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him." Jesus talks about the sheep who will listen to his voice. In Romans 10:17 Paul writes, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Mary was one who listened to Jesus. When Mary found the tomb of Jesus empty, thinking someone had stolen his body, she was weeping. It is then that Jesus approached her and said her name, "Mary." It was at that moment she recognized him (John 20:16). How often do we take the time to quiet ourselves to listen to Jesus by reading the Scripture and praying? How often in this noisy world do we take time to just listen? In verse 16 Jesus said, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice." Who is Jesus talking about? We are not sure. Who is a follower? Who is included in this fold? It is best for us not to judge and leave that up to our good shepherd.

*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. ~Numbers 6:24*