



# Messiah Lutheran Church Newsletter

1470 W. Maplehurst \* Roscommon, Michigan \* 989-275-8820 \* April \* 2018  
Email: [messiah.roscommon@gmail.com](mailto:messiah.roscommon@gmail.com) + follow us on the Messiah Group- Facebook page  
Website: <http://www.messiahlutheranelca.com> Check out our new website. ☺

**We remember in our prayers;** Jeff, Joe, Aunt Linda, Thela, Betty, Cathy, Leona Busch, Tim, Lois, Kim, Larry, Adeline, Piper, Tom, Joyce, Sally, Bill, JoAnn Kosick, Mel, Judy, Lou, Stan, Dan, Jane, Sue, Don & Laurel, Jackie, Gail, Jean, Robin Ahern, Gene & Donna, Nancy Balla, Crystal, Dottie, Rob, Skylar Rhode, John Lancaster, JoAnn, Joyce, Ralph & Laurie, Bunny, Jan, Ernie, Michelle, Luke, baby Owen & Family, and Nancy.

**Our church leaders:** Bishops Elizabeth A. Eaton and Craig Alan Satterlee.

**...those in the armed forces, who have served and those currently serving:** Nick Anderson, David Cooper; Cole Daniels; Tara Goodell; Erik Mathenia; Ian, Matt and Amy McKenna; Richard McManamon; Peter McWilliam; Ryan Schiffner, Lee Schmidt, Nate Walker, Stephanie & Michael Ysebaert, Don & Dan Sulhoff, Tristan Bunch, Andrew Kurek, and for the safe and resolute return of all our nation's POW/MIAs.

**Worship** – 9:30AM Sundays. One service only.  
**Worship at the Brook** – 2:00 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month  
**ADULT Bible Study** – No Bible Study until further notice  
**Choir Rehearsal** –8:30 AM on Sunday morning.  
**Sunday school** –Children's Bulletins will be available for the kids to work on while sitting with their parents during worship service.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ed Pearen	President/Council	821-9649
Ann Jordan	Vice Pres./Council	281-1180
Joan Jaguszewski	Sec./WELCA/Council	389-4004
Jim Heinlein	Treasurer	348-4350
Debbie Brooks	Publicity/Council	390-2167
Jim Lippert	Council-Stewardship	821-9263
David Osim	Council	275-5397
Ric Falardeau	MELCA Rep/Council	821-9561
Ron Anderson	Council	352-816-3920
Carol Lee Anderson	Council	352-816-3920
Terry Sanders	Council	821-1177
Marilyn Stuart	Council	821-9312
Dianne Sanders	Council	821-1177



## Service Information for April

We offer (1) service on Sunday at 9:30AM.

Choir practice is at 8:30AM.

Pastor Lonnie Wilkerson will continue leading us in worship.

He is also available for phone calls, private church meetings at Messiah, home visits if requested, and hospital visits.

Contact information:

Cell-641-220-3691

Home-989-281-1295

Email-lwilkerson@pastorsoapbox.org



Keep checking the information table, your emails, and the weekly bulletins for new business or updates.

Reminder-if the office doesn't have your email we can't share the special messages coming from the office concerning members, events, and service changes. ☺

Check us out on Facebook.☺

We also have a new website at; [messiahlutheranelca.com](http://messiahlutheranelca.com)

## **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY-**

## **This Changes Everything**

"He has been raised, he is not here." These words of the angel standing outside the tomb on Easter morning are perhaps the most glorious ever spoken. He—Jesus—is not here. He is not in the tomb. He is not dead. He was dead, yes. He was in the tomb, yes. But he is no longer. He has been raised.

This is the truth of Easter. But you may wonder what this nice story about Jesus has to do with your life. Trumpets and lilies and white and gold linens, and lavish breakfasts and children all dressed up in their finest church clothes are lovely. But they don't change the diagnosis, or the pink slip, or the dwindling bank account, or the divorce papers. They don't change the reality of harder work for less pay, of addiction to technology, of the endless search for your true identity and real community. No, the accessories of Easter don't change a thing. They are simply ways we often celebrate the message of Easter.

It is the message of Easter—that Christ is no longer dead, that Christ has been raised and is no longer in the tomb—which changes everything. We are promised that in baptism we are buried with Christ and also raised with Christ. Our tombs are empty because his is empty. Whatever evil circumstances come our way—however real and present they are—have no ultimate power to harm us. Jesus has overcome evil, and therefore so have we. The Easter story of Jesus is important because you are important to Jesus. Where he is, and what he is, you shall be also. He has been raised. You have been raised. Alleluia!

### **April 8, 2018-SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **At Peace with His Wounds**

Do you know that you are a peace breather? At your baptism, God breathed the Holy Spirit onto you, meaning that right now you have the peace of God in your lungs. Is that how you experience yourself? Your congregation? When you walk out the doors on Sunday morning after worship, do you breathe peace into the places you go?

Jesus shows up unannounced at the home where the disciples have barricaded themselves. He offers them peace. He reveals his scars to them. Then he breathes the peace of the Holy Spirit onto them.

It is astounding that after the agony and the trauma Christ endured on the cross he can show up with any peace at all, let alone enough peace to share with precisely the people who left him high and dry on the night before the crucifixion. Christ can breathe peace onto others because he has made peace with his own woundedness. He is at peace with his scars. He finds power in telling their story.

When Jesus meets the disciples they too are bearing the marks of that night. Fear has lodged like a splinter under their skin. The marks of isolation and terror are all over them, and these marks send them running for cover. Even if they had the courage to begin to speak, they would not find power in telling the story of their wounds.

The peace that God breathes into our lungs is a peace that begins with the revelation that our wounds and our woundedness, like Christ's, are not to be feared. At the revelation of Christ's wounds, our own lose their power. They no longer ruin us.

Breathe in that peace. Breathe it out into the places you go.

### **April 15, 2018-THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **Phantom Pains**

After an amputation a majority of patients experience phantom pains. The arm is not there, yet he feels it cramping. The hand is gone, yet she feels it throbbing. The foot has been removed, yet he feels it twitching.

Today we meet the disciples, gathered together on the third day after the crucifixion, afraid they are experiencing nothing more than the phantom pains of grief. They had become one body, then on that gruesome day a part of their body was severed from the rest. On this day, Christ returns, but they think they know better. He is just a figment of their imaginations, a phantom pain of the way things used to be, a ghost.

We live in a world full of phantoms. City centers that once were thriving are lonely ghost towns. Forests and plains have been churned up and cut down and turned into housing developments. At our own Easter gatherings, members of the community who once were present are now missing.

In a phantom world we come to expect nothing but disembodied hope and fleeting memory. But God is not a phantom. We are witnesses to an Easter God who raised Jesus from the dead, who dressed Christ in flesh, and who is at work today. This Easter God is restoring places where creation has been cut off from creation, resurrecting our hollowed out, hazy, ghost town world and dressing the earth and all her creatures in flesh and bone, in life once again.

We are people who "look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come" (Nicene Creed). We have become accustomed to those phantom pains, but behold! This is no trick of the imagination. That which was severed from us has been restored. Alleluia!

### **April 22, 2018-FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **For the Love of Sheep**

Children's Bibles and Sunday school lessons always include stories of Jesus healing people, doing miracles, and being loving and kind to others. They also typically include the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It can be confusing, especially to young children, why anyone would put such a good person to death. "Why did he die?" children (and youth and adults!) often ask.

Why did he die?

Jesus himself answers this question in today's gospel when he says three times that he, unlike the hired hand, "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11-18). He has committed himself fully to his vulnerable flock, and in the moment

of their vulnerability he chooses to stand between them and the wolves. He dies because when you stand by a vulnerable flock without any weapons, you risk death by wolf.

Just before Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, he was caught in an exchange with some religious leaders over the healing of a blind man on the sabbath (John 9). Remember that story? Jesus approaches the blind man, and that man listens to Jesus' voice even before he receives his sight and can physically see Jesus. He is one of the vulnerable sheep of Christ's flock. But the Shepherd's care of such a vulnerable sheep draws much attention from the religious authorities. As these leaders repeatedly question and attack the now-seeing man, Jesus does not abandon him but attends to him and cares for him. This care further provokes the anger of the religious authorities.

Why did he die?

He died because of his steadfast insistence on caring for sheep such as the once-blind man. Even now he continues to stand between the sheep and the wolves, between all of humanity and the sin to which we cling.

**April 29, 2018-FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Growing Fruit**

What is your strategy for living a fruitful life? Keep busy! Stay active! Make a to-do list! Watch another TED talk! Read another book! Get to the gym, to the store, to the school to pick up the kids! Take a multivitamin! Buy the latest gadgets and download the latest apps! All this will surely keep you on track so that you will bear fruit in your life. Do these strategies line up with God's desire for us? Today Jesus sums up God's strategy for our fruit-bearing in one word: *abide*. Jesus uses this word eight times (perhaps once for each day of the week plus one for good measure?). Maybe he knows how difficult it is for some of his followers to *be* instead of *do*.

Jesus says the way of fruitfulness is for branches (us) to abide in the vine (him). This way seems to contradict our preferred strategies for growth. Rather than depending on constant movement, this fruitfulness is the result of being planted in God. Rather than living our lives behind isolating screens and walls, abundant growth is born out of connectedness with God and others. Fruit comes from dwelling, not doing. This fruit is the result of reliance and interdependence on the vine, not exhausting efforts at control over our own fruitfulness.

The fruit we produce is not the result of our doing but of God's doing in us. This is why we worship; to abide in God, to be replanted by the water of life, and to be repotted at a table that nourishes. Abiding in the vine with Christ's vitality flowing through us, our fruit grows.

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# APRIL 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Noisy Offering & Food Pantry Collection 2PM- Worship at the Brook Easter Pot-Luck	2	3	4	5 10AM WELCA Church Clean-Up Day All are invited ☺	6	7
8	9	10 10AM-CutUps Quilting Group	11 Community Dinner-Chicken Enchiladas and all the fixings. Desserts and Volunteers will be needed. 5PM till gone ☺	12	13	14
15	16 6PM- Worship Life 7PM- Council Meeting	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 10AM-CutUps Quilting Group	25	26	27	28 FOOD TRUCK LOCATION St. Helen EMS Building 10:30-Start Time. ☺
29	30					

<b>APRIL-2018</b>	<b>WORSHIP ASST.</b>	<b>APRIL REMINDERS</b>
<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>SPRING CLEAN UP DAY-THURSDAY APRIL</b>
READER	RON ANDERSON	<b>5<sup>TH</sup>, START TIME 10AM. EVERYONE IS</b>
USHERS	HAROLD & LADONNA KRAMM	<b>INVITED TO COME HELP AND GET THE</b>
COM. ASST.	RUTH C. & ANN JORDAN	<b>CHURCH READY FOR OUR START UP OF</b>
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Bulletins will be provided to work on at the pew every Sunday.	<b>OUR COMMUNITY DINNERS. LUNCH WILL</b>
WORSHIP ASST.	DAVID OSIM	<b>BE SERVED. HOPEFULLY YOU CAN MAKE</b>
<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>IT. FUN-FOOD-FELLOWSHIP AND SOME CLEANING TOO. 😊</b>
READER	ANN JORDAN	
USHERS	BILL & VARLYA HANUSIK	<b><u>PRAYER PARTNER LETTER</u></b>
COM. ASST.	GARY GRAY & RED BRUNKE	<b>Please remember to sign the PPL that is</b>
PASTOR'S ASST.	RON ANDERSON	<b>found on the information table. Each week we send a letter to another church in our synod that we pray for. 😊</b>
<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	
READER	RED BRUNKE	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>
USHERS	TERRY & DIANNE SANDERS	<b>IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BAKE</b>
COM. ASST.	MARGARET K. & MARY ANN P.	<b>COOKIES OR BAKE A CAKE TO SHARE</b>
PASTOR'S ASST.	ANN JORDAN	<b>DURING COFFEE HOUR, PLEASE FEEL</b>
<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>	<b>FREE TO DO SO. HOMEMADE DESSERTS</b>
READER	PATSY LIPPERT	<b>ARE ALWAYS ENJOYED BY ALL. 😊</b>
USHERS	LAUREL & DON GARDEY	<b>WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS TO POUR</b>
COM. ASST.	RON & CAROL LEE ANDERSON	<b>COFFEE AND CLEAN UP AFTERWARDS.</b>
PASTOR'S ASST.	SHELLY OSIM	<b>YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED. 😊</b>
<b>APRIL 29</b>		
READER	JUDY LEGG	
USHERS	JAN & EMIL MEISSNER	
COM. ASST.	SHELLY & DAVID OSIM	
PASTOR'S ASST.	CHRIS MCMANAMON	
<b><u>COUNTERS</u> JAN &amp; EMIL MEISSNER</b>	<b><u>FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED</u> CANNED TOMATOES SHAMPOO MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED ITEMS COLLECTED GO TO THE FOOD PANTRY AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 😊</b>	<b><u>ALTAR CARE</u> PATSY LIPPERT</b>

## Here we go again, again

***"From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take."***  
**1 Chronicles 12:32**

I sit here this morning shaking my head because one more time, our government, is on the verge of shutting down due to lack of funding. If I had a dollar for all the times this has happened in my lifetime, I could probably pay for lunch at Rosco's (California Wrap here I come!). The political stalemate in Washington reflects just how toxic the political climate is in our country.

Think of some of the issues: the continuing tragedy of abortion reflects our rejection of the sanctity of all human life, the sexual scandals that continue to make news reflect our rejection of biblical marriage and sexual morality. If we want to impact our government, we have to change our culture.

Is there a way forward?

A French philosopher and Christian named Jacques Ellul wrote, "Christians and the church have wanted an alliance with everything that represents power in the world. In reality this rests on the conviction that thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit the powers of this world have been vanquished and set in service of the gospel, the church and mission. We must use their forces in the interest of evangelism...."

"But what happens is the exact opposite. The church and mission are penetrated by their power and completely turned aside from the truth by the corruption of power. When Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this world, he says clearly what he intends to say. He does not validate any worldly kingdom (even if the ruler be a Christian)."

The corrupting nature of political power does not mean that Christians should abstain from politics. I believe God is still calling believers into public service. After all, Paul stated that governing authorities "*have been instituted by God*" (Romans 13:1). Those in political leadership have a highly visible platform for kingdom service.

But remember what Chuck Colson said, "The kingdom of God will not arrive on Air Force One." We cannot convict a single sinner of a single sin. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to "*convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*" (John 16:8).

So, what can we do in days like this?

- Pray earnestly for the lost to turn to Jesus: "*My heart's desire and prayer is to God for them is that they may be saved*" (Romans 10:1).
- Emulate "*the men of Issachar*" who "*had an understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do*" (1 Chronicles 12:32)
- Model the integrity we wish to see in politics everywhere: "*We aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man*" (2 Corinthians 8:21).
- Serve those with whom we disagree: "*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves*" (Philippians 2:3)
- Make it our standard in every conversation and circumstance to "*speak the truth in love*" (Ephesians 4:15).

Can a movement of people living by these precepts make a real difference in our divided culture? The small band of early Christians "*turned the world upside down*" (Acts 17:6).

Matthew 5:13-16 asks us to consider how much salt you need to season a meal and the size of a candle to dispel the dark. "*Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14).