

Easter Joy

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Three women went to the tomb of Jesus very early Easter morning. As they walked, they wondered how they would roll the stone away that was blocking the entrance to the tomb. But when they arrived, a young man, dressed in a white robe, told them, "Jesus has risen; He is not here!" The young man told the women to go and tell the disciples that they would see Jesus again in Galilee, "just as He told you."

And the women ran away, *"for fear and trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."* Mark 16:8

Those words are the end of the Gospel reading that we will hear in the Divine Service on Easter Morning. It is particularly strange to hear those words on a day that should be a joyful day. After all, Easter is the day that we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! Christ is Risen! **He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!**

So why didn't they tell anyone what they had heard? And why were they afraid? The Gospel of Mark doesn't tell us why they were afraid. It isn't too hard to imagine a few reasons, though. The tomb was empty. There was no dead body where they expected to find one. They didn't see Jesus, but just had the Word of a young man to assure them that He was alive. Certainly, there must have been some questions about *how* this could be and *what* this would mean.

We don't know the explicit reason for their fear. But I can certainly understand why they said nothing to no one *because they were afraid*. Fear does that to people. So often, fear takes hold of our lives and drives the decisions that we make. There is a question I find myself asking of myself and others: What are you afraid of? How do your fears drive your decisions?

At times, we fear failure, so we never try at all. At times, we fear judgment and ridicule, so we say nothing at all. There are those times that we fail to forgive because we fear what that means to love one another as Christ has loved us. It can be easier to hold a grudge than it is to forgive.

We may fear for our jobs, our livelihoods, our families, and our health, and that fear can lead us to make decisions that are not at all helpful. We want to be needed, and it drives our decisions. We want to be liked, which leads us to make decisions that are unwise. We want to be respected and push back in anger or avoidance when someone doesn't show us the respect we expect.

So often, we find ourselves mired in sin because our fear drives us to run away.

But the Gospel of Mark doesn't end at Mark 16:8 with the women running away, scared silent. Mark tells us that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, then to the Disciples, then to other crowds. He drove out their fears and sent them out to carry the message to all the world.

“Perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). We cannot love one another with perfect love, but God can. And He has. Perfect love is what compelled God the Father to send His Son to be our Savior. Perfect love is what compelled God the Son to suffer and die for our sins and rise from the dead to defeat death for us. Jesus steps in to our fear to drive out our fear. He brings us the hope of the resurrection and the truth of His Word. He assures us that we are His, and that nothing can separate us from His love.

Fears will still abound in this earthly life because we are sinful creatures. But Jesus has overcome our fears. He brings us peace and hope through His resurrection, and the certain promise that He will bring us through death to everlasting life.

When fears abound in your life, and drive the decisions you make, look to Jesus. Trust in Him. He rose from the dead to save you from your sins and your fears.

Christ is Risen!
He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Jonathan Schultz

MAY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your articles and tidbits into the church office by:

Monday, April 22nd!!



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE and TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES!!

Once again with the coming of spring we look to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates of our congregation. If you or a family member are graduating this spring, please let the church office know so that we can include you (them) in our May edition of the Lamplighter. You can write up a short article about the person or just give the office the information (name, birth date, parents, siblings, school graduating from, special awards, future plans, etc.) and we will write the piece for you. Don't forget to include a picture of your graduate. You can bring this into the office or email it to trinity@trinity-mt.org. **The deadline for the May Lamplighter is Monday, April 22, 2024.**



WEE DISCIPLES

*Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Wee Disciples Easter Celebration and Family Chapel will be on April 3, 2024, at 6:30pm. Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as the children recite Bible verses and sing songs to celebrate Easter!

We look forward to the nicer weather that comes with Spring and being able to enjoy our playtime on the playground in warmer weather. Check out the Wee Disciples monthly calendar that is posted on the announcement board by the front office to see all the fun spring activities that are planned for the month of April.

New Montana State reimbursement rates for childcare went into effect on March 1, 2024. The Board of Early Childhood Education voted at the March meeting to increase the rates for Wee Disciples childcare to match the state rates. These increases will be implemented in two increments—the first increase will be on May 1, 2024, and the second increase will be on August 1, 2024. The new increases for preschool will be effective August 1, 2024.

The Board of Early Childhood Education will meet on April 4, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Stahlecker Room. Plans for summer and for the new school year will be among the items to be discussed.

Our fundraising evenings continue on the third Tuesday of each month at Fuddruckers. Our next evening will be April 16th from 5:00 to 9:00pm. Fuddruckers donates 20% of your total ticket purchase to Wee Disciples. Dine-in and carryout are available. Coupons are available on the announcement board by the church office. Thank you to everyone who has attended these fundraising evenings!

HAPPY SPRING!

LWML News

All ladies of the congregation, including our new members and confirmed young women, are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity.

Please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz for more information.

Saturday, April 6th ~ 10:00 am Sara Graft, Peace Hospice (in Fellowship Hall)

April 6th & 7th ~ *Collect donations for Orphan Grain Train & Ingathering at Convention*

Saturday, April 13th ~ 9:30 am Packing Party for donations

April 26th -28th, 2024 ~ Polson, MT MT District Convention

*** Saturday, May 4th * ~ 9:30 am** Group Gathering (in Stahlecker Room)



You Are Invited

Speaker: Sara Graft – Peace Hospice, Great Falls

Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 am

All of you (men & women) are welcome to attend an informative session regarding this residential facility for terminally ill patients. The presentation will be downstairs in the Fellowship Hall with light refreshments being served. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz.

Collection of Donations April 6th & 7th

LWML is collecting various items to take to Polson to donate to Orphan Grain Train and at District Convention as an ingathering. Please see below for items requested to be donated. *Donations will be collected April 6th & 7th and can be placed in the Stahlecker Room.* More details will be available on the LWML bulletin board outside the church office. For more information, please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz.

Items Needed by Orphan Grain Train

Cash donations to cover shipping costs

Any size gently used or new clothing

Blankets, quilts, towels, washcloths, bed sheets

Baby and adult diapers

Sanitary products for women

Toothbrushes, bar soap, combs

Sports equipment (balls, shoes, gloves, goals, etc)

Hygiene Kits & School Kits (see lists on bulletin board)

New underwear and socks – all sizes

*Walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs

Bicycles (can be repaired at OGT)* – space permitting

Ingathering at District Convention

Kids Athletic Shoes

These should be new or nearly new (with no wear showing) in a box. The size can be anywhere from an elementary child through a high school youth.

Saturday, April 13th we will pack together all of your generous donations to be taken to the District Convention. Please come at 9:30 am if you would be willing to help sort and box like items together.

The Montana District Convention is coming up **April 26-28th** in Polson. *What a fun time to gather with your fellow Lutheran Ladies to hear how our Mites are used, reports from missionaries in the Harvest Field, worship together, and have great times of fellowship, Bible Study and more!* Please ask Sylvia or Amy for more information. **Registration is due April 3rd.**

Our next Group Gathering will be **Saturday, May 4th at 9:30 am** in the Stahlecker Room. There will be devotions, planning, and fellowship time. We will be voting for officers as well. * ***Please note the change of date!*** *

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible study ~ The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible study group continues to study *Focus Lost...Focus Restored*. Up to this point, we have studied about Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; Noah; Abrah/Abraham; and Saul. In April we will be studying about how David, Solomon, Elijah, and Jonah all lost their focus in their lives and the events in their lives that restored their focus back on God. Each lesson is an independent lesson, and we do a lesson each week. Join us for a morning of fellowship as we study God's Word each Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:00am in the Stahlecker Room.

Men's Bible Study continues to meet on **Thursday mornings at 8:30am** for an hour of fellowship and study of God's Word. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

March went out like a wintry lion giving us some much-needed moisture for our farmers and ranchers. Also benefiting from the snow melt in April are the first wildflowers of spring. The third week of April will see the lavender pasqueflowers and bright yellow bells blooming in the foothills. Look for a small bouquet of them in the church office.

The Friday Ladies Bible study ~ Some of those foothill posies will also be found on the table at the Friday Ladies Bible study which is nearing the end of their study of the book of Mark. Come and join them at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. S. from 1:00-3:00pm on April 5th, 12th, and 19th.

Assisted Living Ministry ~ Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will be at the following locations. On Friday, April 5th they will be at *The Lodge*, 1801 9th St. S. from 10:00-10:45am. Treat yourself on Friday, April 26th at 11:45am for the no-host lunch at El Comedor, 1120 25th St. S. Afterward join the fellowship with residents at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11th Ave. S.

On Wednesday, April 10th at 2:30pm Pastor Reinke will be leading a worship service at *The Lodge*, where we have a resident from each of our three Missouri Synod congregations. Pastor Reinke will be at *Highgate Senior Living* for worship at 1:30pm on Monday, April 15th, which has two residents from Peace. These residents love to see friends from the "home church." This ministry has the double enrichment of serving our own church members and outreach to the Great Falls community.

Our shut-ins

Millie Birkholz (The Lodge), **Ellen Carpenter** (Eagle's Manor), **Anita Erickson** (at home), **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Bee Hive Homes-Pine Tree), **Myrtle Pence** (at Benefis Extended Care), **Juanita Winter** (Bee Hive Homes-Clover)



Bob Blomstrom (Beehive Homes in Helena), **Darlene Murray** (at son's home in Kansas), **Vi-Nell** (at son's home in Spokane, WA), **Flo Winter** (at daughter's home in North Dakota)

Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers

Chuck & Judy Lively, Chuck & Elsie Lorenz, Jerry & Colleen Mans
Henry & Alice Schuman, Wally & Diane Thompson

We pray for our expectant mothers and their families:

Kelli & Zach Lynch
Chris & Meredith Wiegert (Bauer's nephew)

We pray for those serving in law enforcement and the military

Sam Birkett, Cascade County Sheriff's Deputy; **Joshua Graham**, (Blomstrom's grandson-in-law) Helena Police Department

Evan Brenner, USAF; **Nathan Brenner**, USAF; **Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Daniel Crème**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Howard Filbert**, USAF; **Kelli Lynch**, USAF; **Kale Martin**, USAF; **Isaac Monroe**, USAF; **Martin Shabaan**, USAF; **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF; **Kalainee Teaney**, USAF; **Julie Timms** (Waetzig's granddaughter)

Our Seminary Student

Aaron Ferguson, 6600 N. Clinton St. Box 245, Fort Wayne, IN 46825
Birthdate: January 16th
Home Church: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Hyannis, NE
Special Ministry Interests: Rural Ministry, Parish/Congregational



Rev. Dr. David & Jennifer Preus ~ Eurasia (Romania)

Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul ~ Cayman Islands

Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett ~ Ethiopia

John & Jenn Wolf ~ Kenya

Giving Online: You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of these missionaries at lcms.org

Giving by Check: You can also make a donation to their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated in the memo line with the missionaries last name*, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, **QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to mission.giving@lcms.org.

A Report from Bob Bergan on India

I spent 22 days in India. We visited children at Mercy Orphanage, brought food to people in slum area, put in a couple of wells in remote village, visited children in a Christian school in southern India, and made up bags of food for poor families in an area in Southern India. We used the donations given to me for all of these activities. We had the opportunity to witness everywhere we went. I would love to share my travels with any group that would like me to. Bible classes, school, or organizations. Please let me know. Thank you again for all the support of my India Mission Trip. And please pray for my sister Julie.

In Jesus Christ service
Bob Bergan

COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2024

For the period February 25, 2024 through March 24, 2024

February 25 th	\$5,641
March 3 rd	\$4,689
March 10 th	\$4,761
March 17 th	\$2,941
March 24 th	\$2,819
Vanco	\$2,275

Actual giving for report period: \$23,126

Roof Repair Fund –through 03/24/2024 \$49,174



If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 868-2260 ~ *James Lautenschlager, Assistant Treasurer*



Vanco's Give+ Online

Vanco's Give+ Mobile

The next generation of giving

Please visit our website www.trinity-mt.org, go to the "Fellowship" tab and sign up for online giving. You can also download the Vanco mobile app to your smart phone for even more convenience.

Offering Counters are needed to assist the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer count and record the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed. Please call the church office (452-2121) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you are willing to assist.



Montana District Red Lodge Camp 2024

Family Camp: June 21st ~ 23rd
registration is \$125 / family

Church Worker Camp: June 24th ~ 26th
registration is \$125 / family

Catechism Camp: June 27th ~ 29th (youth entering 7th or 8th grade and a parent)
registration is \$75 / parent & child

Remember - Trinity will pay half of the registration fee for your student so register early! Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Trinity Lutheran Camp ~ Big Fork ~ Online registration is now open for Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, MT at: www.TrinityLutheranCamp.org. Trinity's discount code is "GFALLS"

Worship Assistants



Serving this Month

Counters ~ Martin & Cheryl Bauer

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Barb Going / Sandy Baranko

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

Mid-week Services

April 3, 2024	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
April 10, 2024	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
April 17, 2024	Duty Elder	Martin Bauer
April 24, 2024	Duty Elder	TBA

April 7, 2024 ~ Second Sunday of Easter (white)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Isaac Schultz
Organist	Joy Suek

April 14, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Easter (white)

Duty Elders	Roy Arves / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Barry Eastley
Organist	Jeannine Eastley

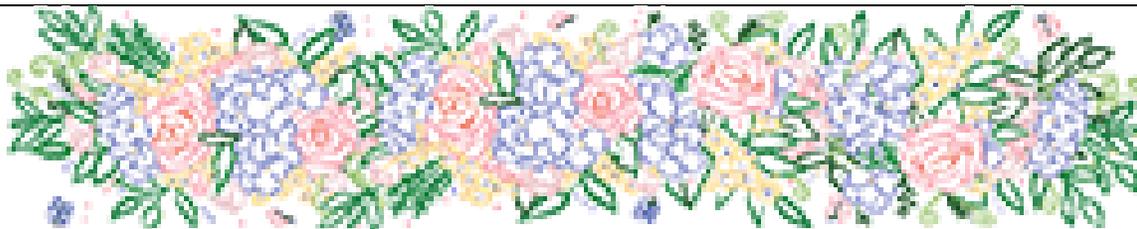


April 21, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter (white)

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video	Barry Eastley
Organist	Jeannine Eastley

April 28, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter (white)

Duty Elders	Roy Arves / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Josh Schultz
Organist	Joy Suek



If unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please contact the church office (406-452-2121) as soon as possible to allow time to find a substitute.

Birthdays

Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

April 2 nd	Roy Crave Louise Keith		April 16 th	Bree Brenner Lidia Neumann (80+)
April 3 rd	Alec Jones		April 18 th	Amanda Miesmer
April 4 th	Jenny Eberly		April 19 th	Michelle Neumann Gerald Paul
April 5 th	Sandra Hanford		April 21 st	Garrett Nelson Rachel Schultz
April 6 th	Nathan Green		April 22 nd	Shelley Rossberg
April 8 th	Myrna Philipp		April 23 rd	Carl Anderson (80+)
April 9 th	Ryan Copp		April 24 th	Haley Hansen, Diane Thompson
April 10 th	Trey Mans		April 26 th	Wes Bauer, Hannah Houle
April 11 th	Molly Jones		April 27 th	Treve Mans
April 12 th	Frank Rossberg		April 28 th	Sandra Heinert
April 13 th	Jeannine Eastley, Amayah Hill Colleen Mans (80+)	April 29 th	Arleen Nelson (90+), Brent Stanger Len Christianson	
April 14 th	Cindy Stene			



Marty ♥ Jenny Eberly (19)
Frank ♥ Shelley Rossberg (56)
 Jeff ♥ LaVonne Thompson (28)

April 2nd
 April 13th
 April 24th



April 1 st	Austin Johnson, Lauretta Stanfield	April 13 th	Emily Neumann
April 2 nd	Zach Lynch	April 14 th	Jenny Eberly, Dylan Gilley
April 3 rd	Louise Kuki	April 16 th	Virginia Abbott, Haley Hansen Niklas Hansen, Cheri Zrawka
	Nathan Redenbaugh, Zechary Redenbaugh	April 19 th	Derek Jones
April 5 th	Roy Arves, Bill Sybrant	April 21 st	Bob Magis
April 6 th	Sandra Baranko, Bob Blomstrom	April 22 nd	Chris Magis
April 8 th	Chad Mans	April 23 rd	Millie Birkholz, Matthias Paul
April 9 th	Olivia Martello	April 24 th	Sylvia Adams, Linda Wade
April 10 th	Jarrid Clausen, Brielyn Ginnaty Janelle Houle	April 25 th	Charles Kingland
April 12 th	Kay Kessel	April 27 th	Tracy Miesmer, Bonnie Nommensen
April 13 th	Jan Bicsak, Kayla Kelly		

April 1 st	Kathie Sybrant		April 16 th	Cheri Zrawka
April 2 nd	Virginia Abbott		April 17 th	Evan Brenner
April 3 rd	Linda Bergan, Louise Kuki Peggy Norris		April 21 st	Jacalyn Garrison
April 4 th	Sherri VanVleet		April 23 rd	Diane Thompson
April 11 th	Kelli Lynch		April 25 th	Elisa Broberg, Kati Lee
April 12 th	Kay Kessel		April 27 th	Bonnie Nommensen
April 13 th	Kayla Kelly, Clarissa Shaffer		April 28 th	Amy Schultz
April 14 th	Jonathan Schultz, Joshua Schultz		April 29 th	Jaymes Crumley
			April 30 th	Ashlee Graves, Marlys Williams