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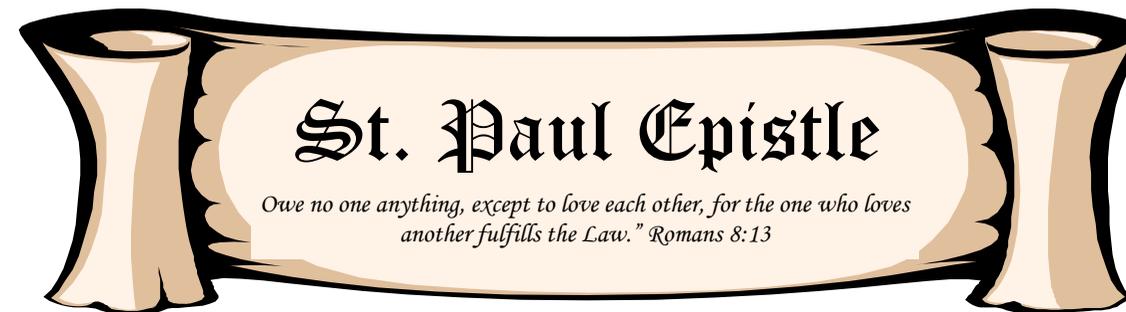
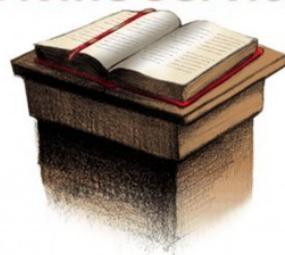
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Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:15 a.m. Divine Service
 (Holy Communion offered every Sunday at St. Paul)

Divine Service



St. Paul Epistle

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another fulfills the Law." Romans 8:13

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Volume 2

APRIL 2019

Issue 4

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear St. Paul Family,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Easter is the highest point of celebration in the Christian church. We adore Christmas, we are grateful for Thanksgiving, we find power in Pentecost, we relish the Reformation, but we are really all about Easter! Our Christian faith hinges on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the time of this writing, (3/25/19) Easter is not yet here; it is still the season of Lent. As you may know, Lent consists of '40 days of fasting.' This excludes the Sundays in between which are not Sundays of Lent but Sundays in Lent. A time for repentance, prayer, and growing in faith, Lent is a more somber time of the church year which leads us to the cross of Christ and prepares for the joy of Easter, and remember: It's All About Easter!

In a very real sense, Lent can be viewed as the road leading to Easter/Salvation. The most notorious road in the world is the Via Dolorosa, "the Way of Sorrows." In his book, *He Did This Just for You*, Max Lucado eloquently offers the following description of that road. He writes: "According to tradition, it is the route Jesus took from Pilate's hall to Calvary. The path is marked by stations frequently used by Christians for their devotions. One station marks the passing of Pilate's verdict. Another, the appearance of Simon to carry the cross. Two stations commemorate the stumble of Christ, another the words of Christ. There are fourteen stations in all, each one a reminder of the events of Christ's final journey. Is the route accurate? Probably not. When Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 and again in A.D. 135, the streets of the city were destroyed. As a result, no one knows the exact route Christ followed that Friday. But we do know where the actual

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

path began. The path began, not in the court of Pilate, but in the halls of heaven. The Father began His journey when He left His home in search of us. Armed with nothing more than a passion to win your heart, He came looking. This is the heart of the Christian message. God became a human. He was born in an ordinary stable to ordinary parents. But His was an extraordinary purpose. He came to take us to heaven. His death was a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus was our substitute. He paid for our mistakes so we wouldn't have to. Jesus' desire was singular – to bring His children home. The Bible has a word for this quest: reconciliation. 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself' (2 Corinthians 5:19, NKJV). The Greek word for reconcile means 'to render something otherwise.' The path to the cross tells us exactly how far God will go to put it back together. Reconciliation re-stitches the unraveled, reverses the rebellion, rekindles the cold passion. Reconciliation touches the shoulder of the wayward and woos him homeward" (p. 18-20).

The way of Lent leads us to the way of Holy Week, which leads us to the way of the cross, which leads us to Christ's substitutionary death, which leads us to...EASTER! In Christ's Easter morning resurrection, victory is proclaimed for the entire world! And all of this stuff leads us to YOU. Lost in the darkness of life, you no longer have to suffer alone. No matter where you are at or what you have done...the way of Easter is your way home. HOME! Not into the courtroom of an almighty, legalistic, stern judge. But into the home of a loving Father with His arms open wide for you. If it has been a while since you have been to God's house, won't you please consider joining us for Easter Worship? Our schedule is as follows: Easter Vigil (Saturday), April 20th 7:00 p.m. = Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion, April 21st 6:30 a.m. = Easter Festival of Hymns Service with Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.

Here at St. Paul, you will find a sinful pastor who is also forgiven; you will find a congregation of sinners who are also declared saints by Christ; and you will find open arms ready to receive you. We are not perfect but we worship in the house of the God who is; living in His love and grace. Won't you join us? Remember, it is all about Easter. And Jesus did Easter, just for YOU!

In Christ's Love, +

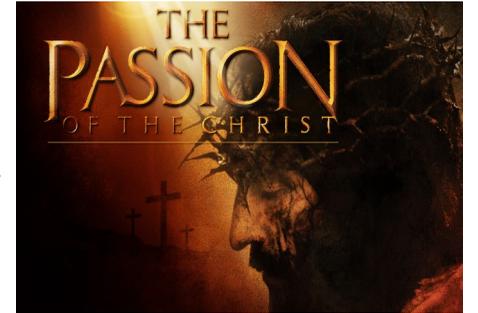
Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10



St. Paul Movie Night

The Passion of the Christ

Come join your church family during Holy Week and watch one of the greatest movies ever made, Mel Gibsons, *The Passion of the Christ!*



Wednesday, April 17, at 7 PM or after the Seder celebration preceding.

**B.Y.O.P (Bring Your Own Popcorn)
Or we will make it in the church popcorn popper!
Bring your own comfortable chair if you would like!**



For staying up-to-date on all church activities, tune into our St. Paul Facebook page. Plus, while your there, you get to look at all the cool pictures of our church activities!



Easter Lilies

Order forms will be in the church bulletin for all those that would like to purchase Lilies for Easter. They are \$10.00 each and all orders with payment are due by April 14. Thank you!

Am I really living FOR the LORD, or myself?

In his book, *Revolution*, George Barna makes the following statement, “our research indicates that churchgoers are more likely to see themselves as Americans, consumers, professionals, parents, and unique individuals than zealous disciples of Jesus Christ. Until that self-image is reoriented, churches will not have the capacity to change their world.” (page 88) The word “steward” doesn’t even appear on Barna’s list, yet being a steward impacts every area of our life. We are all stewards. A steward is a person who manages or takes care of property that belongs to someone else. In the Old Testament a steward was one who administered the affairs of a household. Joseph is a good example. See Genesis 39: -6a) In the New Testament the concept was the same. (See the parables of Jesus such as Luke 19:11-27.) As time went on the term broadened to refer to an officer of the royal household. “but never in history did the steward own the things with which he worked or which he invested; he was always responsible to his master for his care of them.” (Turner Clinard in *Responding to God* page 11) There are, of course, those who will not acknowledge this fact, but it is a fact nonetheless. God created the world and everything in it. Everything we humans have is a gift from Him and He retains ownership. We are stewards. (Check out Luke 12:16-20 to see what God thinks about someone who sees himself as an owner instead of a steward.)

We are Christian stewards. A Christian steward is a child of God who realizes his/her role in life as a partner, a trustee, a manager, a caretaker, a temporary custodian of gifts that belong to God. The Christian steward receives God’s precious gifts gratefully, manages God’s precious gifts gratefully, manages God’s precious gifts carefully and responsibly, shares God’s precious gifts with others generously, and returns God’s precious gifts joyfully with increase.

How can we raise the awareness among God’s people that we are stewards?

Constitution Revision Task Force

We will be meeting every Thursday at 3:30PM until we finish our reading and revision of the Constitution. We hope that all members will be able to attend. Thank you for your willingness to serve on this super exciting committee.

FUN AND GAMES

Our next fun and games date will be **Sunday, April 7th at 4:00PM**. Come out and join us for dominoes and cards. Bring your favorite snack to share and bring a friend along with you! See y’all there!



125th Anniversary Task Force

We will be having our 3rd meeting on Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30PM. We have a great deal to discuss and plan out for the coming year. We hope that all members will be able to attend.

Celebrating
125
years

Wichita County Heritage Society

UPCOMING EVENT MAY 4, 2019. The Wichita County Heritage Society will be hosting a tour of five historical churches in Wichita Falls. St. Paul Lutheran Church is the oldest church and will be featured in this tour. Tickets will be available at the Kell House located at 900 Bluff Street.

If you have any items that were used in the church in its early years and would like to share those items for the tour, please contact William Parker at 704-5331 or Janice Wiechman at 867-5029.



LYF APRIL ACTIVITIES

We would like to see if there are any Jr. high and/or any high school aged YOUTH that would be interested in getting together to discuss future activities that we could do to get our youth group started up again. If you are available for something like this, please contact Pastor Cody on his cell phone or by text 832-745-3314.



LCMS YOUTH GATHERING | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

The youth (Kyler Wiechman, Clara Buckmaster, Cameron Cody) are now registered for the National Youth Gathering this summer in Minneapolis. The conference is July 11-15. We will be doing various fund raisers in the near future, so be on the lookout to help them out for this summer's trip. Pray for them and the Adult Counselors as well as they prepare for this faith-strengthening journey.

Catechism Memory Work for St. Paul Youth

The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism & The Sacrament of the Altar

Bible Trivia...How Good Are You?

1. How did Moses heal the bitter waters of Marah?

- A. He poured olive oil in them
- B. He washed himself in them 7 times
- C. He cast a tree into them
- D. He touched them with his rod

2. What did God send to feed the murmuring children of Isreal?

- A. Deer and fish
- B. Bread and quail
- C. Corn and barley
- D. Wheat and seeds

3. What was the token of the covenant between Abraham and God?

- A. Circumcision
- B. Sacraments
- C. Tithes
- D. Burnt sacrifice

4. What brought forth water when Moses struck it?

- A. A pit
- B. A rock
- C. A tree
- D. A pot

5. Whom did the Lord rename "Sarah"?

- A. Rebecca
- B. Rachel
- C. Sarai
- D. Hagar

6. The Lord covenanted: "If ye will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a _____ unto me above all people".

- A. holy race
- B. blessed people
- C. peculiar treasure
- D. precious nation

7. Which of Abraham's sons did the Lord establish His covenant with?

- A. Jacob
- B. Joseph
- C. Ishmael
- D. Isaac

8. How many men came to visit Abraham in the plains of Mamre?

- A. 3
- B. 12
- C. 2
- D. 11

(Answers on page 12)

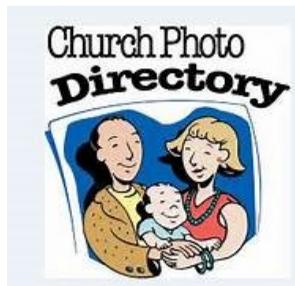
Pictorial Directory 125th Anniversary Edition

We are in the process of getting a pictorial directory going for St. Paul's 125th Anniversary year to commemorate those belonging to the church currently as we celebrate this year. We will be doing this directory in-house, and Randal Schoppa has graciously volunteered his time and camera to take the family photos. We will be asking all members to come downstairs after church when the photos will be taken. The photo taking will begin sometime this month, so be looking in the Minor Prophet (Announcements) for more information about this.

We are also calling on any an all activity page photos (which would be church fellowship and activity pictures) you might have to be included in the directory as well.

We would like to include in this directory everyone's cell phone numbers and current email addresses. Please send this information into the church office ASAP.

Thank you all in advance for your willingness to help us get our directory together.



Please continue to fill your
Mite Boxes!

The LWML needs your
continued love and
support to meet our
Mission Goals.



Adult Education

The Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning before Divine Service. Our goal is to have 40 people in Adult Bible Study. We want to come together and study God's Word, and reap the benefits that God promises to those who remain in His Word (John 8:31-32). We are now studying the book of John. I think that you will find this class interesting and thought-provoking. Please plan on joining us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Because of the continued interest in the Adult Catechism Classes, Pastor Cody is teaching Continuous Adult Catechism Instruction to study together what it is that Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. This class meets weekly on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Those wanting to become members of St. Paul can join the class at any time, and once through the series of lessons, they can be confirmed into communicant membership of the church. If you are interested in taking this class, please come out and join us! At this time we are studying the Books of 1 & 2 Samuel. Come join us..... You'll love it!



Sunday school for all ages starts at 9:00AM each Sunday morning. The Scriptures are clear, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and **when he is old, he will not depart from it.**" (Prov. 22:6). Bring the kids out and stay for Adult Bible study yourselves and teach them the proper habit to be in as the spiritual leaders of your homes! See y'all there!

Middle School Youth Catechism Class

We have young people that will be gathering together each week to demonstrate to their parents, and their Lord, the importance of this journey in their faith walk. Catechesis is the teaching of our Lord that is drawn from the Holy Scriptures, confessed in the Small Catechism, and expressed in Divine Service. Please pray for them as they study the Word of God and complete this important stage in their lives. The class is open to any and all from the 5th grade through the 8th grade. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m.

Midweek Bible School with Mrs. Schkade

There are several youth of our congregation that are meeting each Wednesday at 4:45PM-6:15PM. They study their Bibles and lessons and usually participate in a craft of some sort. There is always a snack served each week. Pastor Cody joins us with his guitar and leads some singing of favorite campfire songs. This is open to all in the 3rd through 5th grades! Hope to see y'all there!

Mrs. Schkade

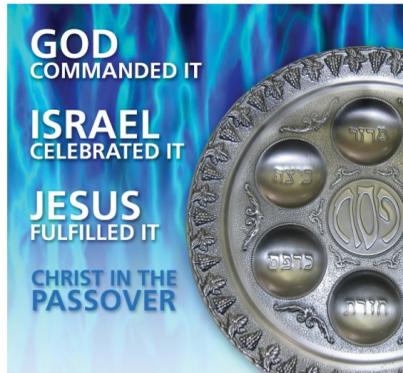
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 14– Palm/Passion Sunday.....10:15 AM
April 15– Prayer Litany.....Noon & 7 PM
April 16– Prayer Litany.....Noon & 7 PM
April 17– Passover Celebration in Music Room 5:30 PM
April 18– Maundy Thursday ServiceNoon & 7 PM
April 19– Good Friday Tenebrae Service.....7 PM Only
April 20– Easter Vigil Service.....7 PM Only



A Passover Celebration will be presented by the Midweek Bible School students on Wednesday, April 17, at 5:30 PM in the Church Music Room

The participants will take part in recreating the Passover celebration, very similar to what the Jewish people were celebrating, and observe how each part of it looks forward to the sacrifice that Jesus made. Family members as well as all others are encouraged to attend and share with the children. It is a wonderful yet solemn time.



A Stewardship Minute

This spring, it is interesting to think about how birds build their nests and prepare for the next generation. The mother bird lays her eggs in the nest, sits on them until they hatch, and then feeds, nurtures and teaches them until the younglings are ready to fly on their own.

We, as Christians, must do the same for our family: build and maintain a place for our children to be nurtured and grow as Christians. Our children certainly are the future and the church will continue to be a place for their spiritual nurturing. We need to do our best to be stewards of our time, talents and resources to provide that environment.

Just as we attend to our own “nests” at home, we must also attend to maintaining the spiritual nest necessary for the next generation of Christians to grow and flourish. The lead article in this month’s issue of Stewardship points out that when we volunteer our time, or give contributions and offerings to the church to fund programs and build buildings, like Mother Bird, we are providing for our little ones, sustaining and nurturing the next generation of Christians.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for our church and our church family. Stir us up always to do your will and to be good stewards of all that we have. Amen.

Theology on Tap: Men’s Bible Study

Our circuit-wide monthly Men’s Bible Study continues on **Tuesday, April 9th** at Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls. We’ll gather at 6:00pm for some great vittles from the Holy Smokers, then continue with our look at “Authentic Christianity” from 7-8pm. This month we are on chapter 3, and all are welcome!



The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:

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www.stpaulwftx.org † Email: stpaulwf@att.net

The Rev. Rick Cody Pastor

Cell Phone: 832-745-3314 †

Email: revcody11@gmail.com

Kathy

Schkade.....Organist

Lisa Schur.....Parish Office Worker

JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN

1 THESS 5:16-18

REJOICE / PRAY / GIVE THANKS

LCMS National Convention

The 67th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • July 20-25, 2019 • Tampa

2019-21 National Offering

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Every three years, our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meets in convention to determine mission and ministry priorities for the coming three years. This year, we will gather in Tampa under the theme “Joy:fully Lutheran.”

As part of the preparation for the triennial convention, LCMS households, congregations and organizations are invited and encouraged to participate in a Synodwide gathering of special gifts called the National Offering. The 2019 National Offering theme is “Joy to the World.” “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). This triennium’s National Offering provides Lutherans across the country an opportunity to reflect their joy in the Gospel and their thankfulness to God for His gifts in Christ.

Gifts to the 2019 LCMS National Offering — which can be made at any time — will empower the work God has given us to do in His name to bring joy to the world, as we vigorously make known the Good News of Jesus Christ, that all might rejoice and give thanks to God our heavenly Father.

Please Pray

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle & Cameron Cody
- ✦ Kathy & Kenneth Schkade
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ The leadership of our church, all boards and committee members.
- ✦ The mission of Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.

Prayers of God’s People

FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Barbara Moore, Christie Huff, Dennis Keethler, Virginia Martinez, Hank Roten, Wanda Kilgo, Rev. Thomas Handrick; Lee Shores

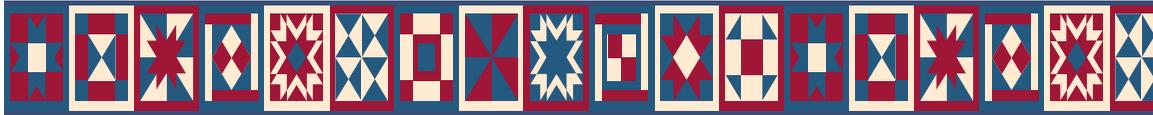


PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, **Jesse Flick**, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Claudia Kelley, Carol McFerran, Margaret McRoberts, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Barbara Roten, Rev. Michael Ruhlig, Margaret McRoberts, and **Ruth Rathgaber**

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Fred Lynch (Location unknown), Carolyn Smith (Brookdale Midwestern), Ruby Swartz (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows)

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: Mark Benner (Army Reserves), Whitney Brown (Air Force), Eli Buckmaster (Marine Corps), Brian Clayton (Army), Kate Ridinger Dozier (Navy), Zachary Wied (Army)



Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

Tabitha Joy LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) will be meeting on a new day, the 1st Thursday of each month. The meeting time is **April 23** at 9:15 AM. All women are invited to join us in fellowship, learning about current mission grants both local and national, inspirational Bible study, and how we may Serve the Lord with Gladness! If you have questions you may contact Kathy Schkade at 940-867-2743.

LWML will be assembling kits on April 23rd.

If you would to donate items for the kits, we will continue to take items up until this time.



The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on **Thursday, April 23**, at 9:15AM. All ladies interested are very welcome to join them!



Our **Women's Bible Study** will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month of April at 9:30AM. They invite all women interested to come for some thought-provoking bible study and great fellowship!

Thank You

We wish to thank those who served last month:

Organist: Kathy Schkade

Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Ben English

Sound man/PowerPoint: Chad Newquist, Ben English

Altar Guild: Janice Wiechman, Janna Buckmaster (setup) Audra Baber, Julie Withrich (take-down) (And all members!)

Greeters: Nancy Martinez, and all greeters

Ushers: Randal Schoppa, Eugene Kruger, Justin Kuiper...and all who volunteer on Sundays

All Church Council members

All Board and Committee members

Treasurer: Kathy Kabell

Faith Mission

The immediate needs of Faith Mission are as follows:

1. Easy to read Bibles
2. Bed Sheets (twin, full, & queen)
3. Pillows
4. Toilet Paper
5. Postage Stamps



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

Memorials

In Memory of James Weichman
 Deborah Johnson
 Troy, Katey, and Declan Lewis
 Hank & Judy Hancock

In Memory of Audrey Cordry

March 2019 Attendance

Mar. 3, Sunday (35)
 Mar. 6, Ash Wednesday (35)
 Mar. 10, Sunday (42)
 Mar. 17, Sunday (33)
 Mar. 20, Weds. (14)
 Mar. 24, Sunday (43)

GARAGE SALE



Upcoming church garage sale the end of May!
 Start cleaning out your closets and gathering your items for this HUGE event! More information to come!



TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. He cast a tree into them
2. Bread and quail
3. Circumcision
4. A rock
5. Sarai
6. Peculiar treasure
7. Isaac
8. 3

If you or someone you know needs a ride to Divine Service any other church activity, please call the church office at (940) 322-6112 and we will see what we can do to arrange that for you.



EASTER EGG HUNT! The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 13th from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m. at the Family Center. There will be a devotion and then a meal served during this event. The hunt is for children up through the 6th Grade. Older children are invited also to join in the event and help hide the eggs and help the younger children in the hunt. Please sign one of the sign-up sheets around the church so we know how much food to prepare. You are encouraged to invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Come join in the fun.



(Directions to the Family Center: Take Highway 281 south to FM 1954 at the blinking yellow light; Turn east (left) on FM 1954; go ½ mile to the cattle guard entrance on the south side of the road; turn south (right) down the access road to the Family Center on the left about ¼ mile.)

Easter Breakfast



Easter Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunrise Service at 8:00 AM.

Egg Casseroles, sweet rolls, coffee, juice, and milk will be served.

Days to Celebrate in April

Birthdays

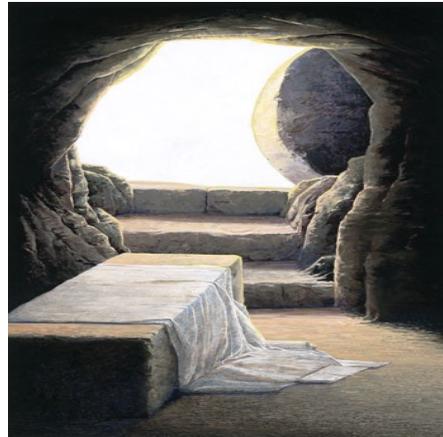
1st Troy Lewis, Virginia Martinez
 4th Bobby Scarber
 5th Debra Truette
 9th Keith Kruger
 13th Nina Keethler
 17th Matt Dozier
 26th Fred Lynch
 29th Sherry Wright



EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 21

Sunrise Service.....6:30 AM
 Easter Breakfast..... 8:00 AM
 No Bible Class
 Easter Festival of Hymns.....10:15 AM



God's People at Work during April

Bulletin Helpers

Hank Hancock
 Larry & Nancy Martinez

Elders

William Parker
 Kenneth Schkade
 Ben English

Ushers

Randal Schoppa
 Eugene Krueger
 Hank Hancock

Altar Duty

Set Up: Nancy Martinez,
 Debra Truette
 Take Down: Leanne Horry,
 Nancy Martinez

Greeters

Apr. 7 - Delores Palmatary, Ruth Rathgaber
 Apr. 14 - Pam Marten & Nancy Martinez
 Apr. 21- Hank & Judy Hancock
 Apr. 24 - Del Tech & Penny Baker
 Apr. 28 - Del Tech, Penny Becker

Readers

Apr. 7—Ken Schkade
 Apr. 14—Pastor Cody
 Apr. 21—Eugene Krueger
 Apr. 28— Kenneth Theimer

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

You are welcome to join Pastor Cody and a few good men as they meet at Market Street off Kell Blvd on Thursday mornings at 6:15AM. The book study at the moment is on the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller book, *Has American Christianity Failed?* See you there!

