

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
April 2021

Address:
4810 West Mill Road
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676
Website: triunelutheran.com
E-mail: triune948@gmail.com

Worship Schedule:
Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)
Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People
Pastor.....Brad Ross
Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac
Organist.....Edith Schatt
Council President.....Dale Kirk
Council Vice-President...Bonnie Piskac
Council Secretary.....Heidi Bailey
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Siblings in Christ of Triune,

A few weeks ago, I bought Sarah some lilies from a local store. I should mention that I know next to nothing about gardening, including flowers. But usually when I buy flowers from a store, they come with plant food. And so, I cut those flowers at a diagonal line maybe an inch or two from the bottom of the stem, and put them in a vase with lukewarm water, sprinkling in said plant food. More often than not, they tend to last for a while. However, these lilies...my lack of green-thumb-ness could not be avoided whatsoever.

They were closed-in (I'm sure that's not the right horticultural terminology) on themselves when I purchased them. There was not my coveted go-to plant food inside the wrapping around them; so, I Googled to make sure I could still pull off my naïve "magic" to make them bloom with just good 'ole lukewarm tap water (whatever site just informed me that it might be best to change the water daily). I did the diagonal cuts, trying to make them all presentable in a vase at the center of our dining room table, and slowly, but most surely, they all started to fade looking downward at that table, as if they were expressing their joint-disgust with their elementary floral dis-enthusiast.

Thankfully, many churches around the world have much smarter people than myself in decorating churches with actual beautiful lilies and other plant-life to symbolize the Resurrection majesty, making us fall in love with the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, my rather evident swing-and-a-miss attempt, made me wonder about the age old, "So what now?" question that we Christians should ask ourselves with every Easter celebration. "Christ is Risen!" Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!" Yes...so, now what? Jesus died and rose again...yes...so, now what?



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



I suppose (at least, the way I understand our Lutheran theology on things), technically, we don't have to do a thing. Jesus loves us so much that he believed (and believes) we are worth dying for and coming back to life for to live right within and beside us through all eternity, no matter what. There is nothing we need to do, like trying to perfect a certain regiment to make a flower last for however many days, or trying to figure out the perfect regiment of "loving your neighbor as yourself," to convince God to take the love-encapsulation cross and everlasting life Resurrection away from any one of us. That's the Gospel, no questions asked.

However, the "so now what?" isn't so much about us personally. The question is what does the Resurrection empower us to do now for others in our home, neighborhoods, nation, the entire world that God still loves (others who may like to see some beauty in floral or whatever other form, too). Christ's triumphant defeat of sin and death doesn't just give us permission, but the Resurrection implores us to not obsess over that sin and death to the point that it can ever hold us back from fulfilling our most beautiful roles as real-life enactors of Resurrection majesty, even more beautiful than any most enchanting lily flower.

Yes, even though we live in an Easter reality, where Christ has died and Christ has most certainly risen, we will still have our downward gloomy days (like the lilies I didn't do so well with, to say the least), and that's okay. Nevertheless, Christ will insist on raising us up with the same power that took on sin and death. And yes, that Easter reality is that the most majestic flower of life-enriching beauty in Christ himself will forever bloom in us not just on a certain Sunday in spring, but all the days of this life and into all eternity. And for that Gospel of the Resurrection meant for the whole world, we most certainly give thanks to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

Image: from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach (extension.iastate.edu)

In hopes that more will be able to join us (as well as doing our best to ensure minimizing driving during the nighttime hours), we will worship on Good Friday (April 2) at **1pm**. We will do so from our fellowship hall, as we give thanks to God for the love that was brought to life on the cross for the whole world!





We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Cathy Gallagher	George Tomaselli
Jan Halishak	Mardell Weiss
Richard Jakubcin	Clara Wilcox
Donna Matter	Dave Wilcox
The Murphy Family	

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



2	Dave Schatt
8	Tina Schwab
10	Bonnie Piskac
15	Kyle Schwab

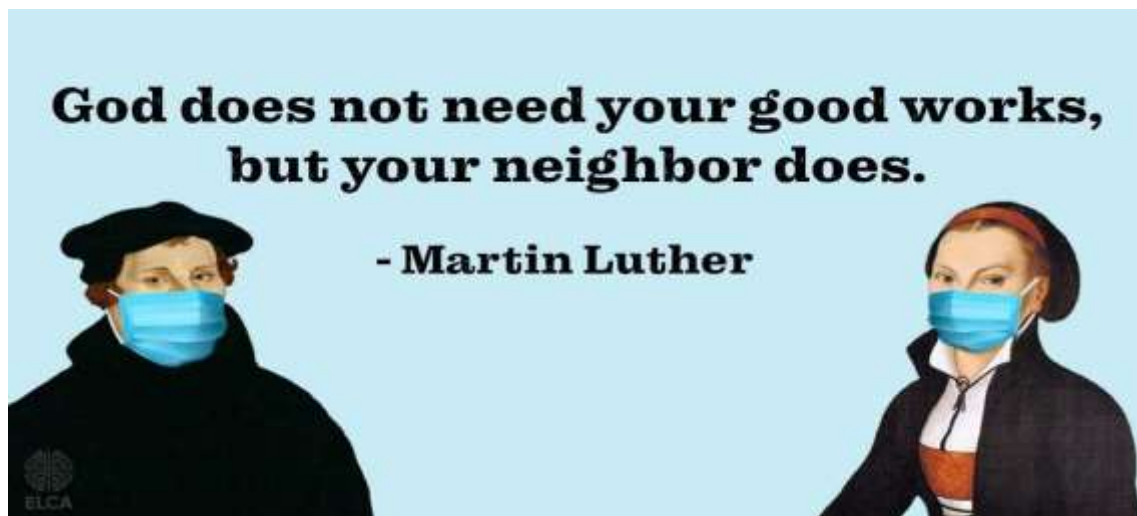
Bible study
continues Mondays at 1pm.
JOIN US ANY TIME!





We gather to celebrate Christ's Resurrection on Sunday, April 4. We only ask that you let us know in advance if you plan to bring additional family and friends so that we may ensure to setup our fellowship hall with adequate spacing so that we may continue to provide the safest environment for us to worship our Risen Lord together. Please let Pastor Brad or Jan know by Wednesday, March 31.

May we, always, be thankful for the most beautiful Creation that surrounds us and remember our call to care for it, that numerous generations after us may be able to enjoy it as well!





We continue to do our part in providing the safest environment possible as the vaccines continue to be rolled out, knowing that risks remain. We want everyone who worships with us to feel safe, so that they may focus on worshipping God with their whole heart. With that in mind, here is what still to expect (of course, all plans are subject to change, and we will do our best to inform you of any changes as soon as possible, through email, our website, Facebook page, and phone calls for those without internet access):

- You will be asked to wear a mask the entire time you are in the church building (unless you have a health condition that prevents you from doing so).
- Worship will be made shorter with the lack of air flow in the fellowship hall during the colder months.
- Bulletins and individual Communion elements in plastic cups will be placed on chairs before worship starts.
- An offering plate will also be in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop your offerings into, as there will not be a time during worship for offering plates to be passed around.
- Chairs will be set beforehand to ensure the minimum six-foot distance apart.
- We will not be singing together as a congregation, as published scientific studies reveal the harm with the potential spreading of aerosols/droplets.
- Also, for the bold print in the bulletin, we ask you speak in a whisper voice as opposed to speaking loudly as a group for the prayers of intercession responses, the Lord's Prayer, etc.

We understand this may still seem extreme, but we will always err on the side of caution for our Triune family's health and safety, including your individual family and friends whom you may come in contact with during the week. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we take on this unique journey together with God's help to be sure. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Triune council members.

Easter: The Best News in the World



“Hallelujah, He is Risen” (Wayne Pascall)

There’s a story told of two children playing together while a movie about Jesus’ life was on television in the background. One of the children was Christian; the other was not. As the film reached the point of Jesus’ crucifixion, the second child became more and more interested in what was happening on the television and began to neglect their play. Frustrated, the first child said, “Never mind about that! He gets out of it in the end!”

I wonder sometimes if this is our attitude toward Easter in the church too. It’s tempting to fast-forward through Jesus’ suffering and death to the Easter lilies and the happy ending. In a broken world, we long for happy endings.

A happy ending is the last thing Jesus’ disciples expected. We read in the Gospels that Jesus told the disciples three times that he must suffer and die and that he would be raised again on the third day (Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19; Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, 10:32-34; Luke 9:21-22, 9:43-45, 18:31-34), but they didn’t understand him. They just couldn’t believe it. Humans know something about death, and in our experience, death is final.

Perhaps that’s why the first time Jesus referred to his upcoming death and resurrection, Peter actually talked back to him, rejecting his words (Matthew 16:22-23, Mark 8:32-33). When Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away (Matthew 26:56, Mark 14:50). After Jesus’ death and burial, John reports that the disciples hid away together in fear (John 20:19). Mark reports that the women who found Jesus’ tomb empty on Easter morning didn’t tell anyone because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). Luke reports that when the women did tell the other disciples, they didn’t believe them (Luke 24:11).

The disciples had experienced Jesus’ crucifixion—a real, slow, painful and shameful death—and were convinced that was the end of the story. They couldn’t imagine a reality in which death didn’t have the last word.

And then everything changed.

On the church's liturgical calendar, Easter is called "The Resurrection of Our Lord." That name reminds us of the deep power of God at work to save. The God who created the world out of nothing creates new life on the other side of death. Easter isn't the celebration that Jesus "got out of it in the end." On Easter, we celebrate the fact that Jesus saw things through to the end, to the cross, to death, to the grave, and that God raised him up to new life!

Our creeds and confessions of faith insist on this: Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. They confess just as clearly that Jesus rose from the dead. There is no narrow escape, no getting out of it. Without death, there can be no resurrection. Jesus' resurrection shows God breaking into our death-dealing world to give new and eternal life. When we gather for worship, we say in the words of the Apostles' and Nicene creeds that we believe this! We really believe it! And then, even more boldly, we say we believe in this promise of resurrection for ourselves too!

Paul described Jesus' resurrection as "the first fruits" of a harvest that will include all believers (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams expressed it like this: "God is never at the end of God's resources when we are at the end of ours. We really die, and God really remakes us. Creation and resurrection are inseparable activities in God's response to the death of God's loved ones."

The good news of Easter keeps getting better. Easter is not just one day but a liturgical season lasting for seven weeks. In the Scriptures, the number seven conveys a sense of completeness. Because there are seven days in a week and seven weeks in the season of Easter, Easter is sometimes referred to as "a week of weeks," a fulfillment of fulfillment. The good news is so good that we keep on celebrating and witnessing to God's gift of new life long after the rest of society has moved on to thinking about the next holiday.

[The Resurrection serves as] a delightful reminder that Easter is God's big joke on sin, death and the devil. The powers of darkness that thought they had the last word did not and do not. As Paul wrote: " 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' ... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

This article originally appeared April 1, 2018, as part of a series of "Deeper Understandings" through Living Lutheran. This, and other resources for the journey of faith, available at LivingLutheran.org.



Kathryn A. Kleinhans is dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday AA @ 8 pm	2 Good Friday Worship @1pm	3 <i>NO Saturday Worship</i>
4 Resurrection of Our Lord WORSHIP @11 AM	5 Bible Study @ 1 pm	6 AA @ 7pm	7	8 AA @ 8 pm	9	10 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
11 WORSHIP @11 AM	12 Bible Study @ 1 pm	13 AA @ 7pm	14	15 AA @ 8 pm	16	17 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>TIM MIZE</u>
18 WORSHIP @11 AM	19 Bible Study @ 1 pm Council @ 6pm	20 AA @ 7pm	21	22 AA @ 8 pm	23	24 WORSHIP @ 5 PM <u>PASTOR BRAD</u>
25 WORSHIP @11 AM	26 Bible Study @ 1 pm	27	28	29	30	



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.