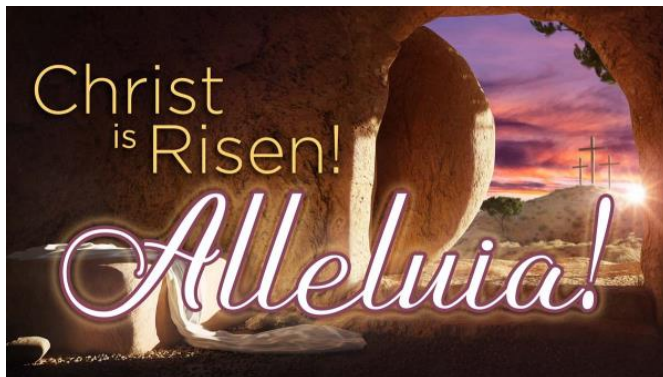


Covenant News



April 2023

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

Greetings! I remember it was my sophomore year of college. Facebook was starting to pick up steam on campuses across the country. It started off being a bigger deal for the Ivy League, but eventually it grew to the rest of us mere mortals in other universities beyond New England. Regardless, this social networking site was still more so just for us, not the rest of the general public (at

least, not yet). We had to go through some verification process of having a certain college email address to obtain an account. But still, it was the cool thing to do at the time, and so I did.

As profiles were frantically made by us late-teens and early twenty-somethings, Facebook would provide us space to list our favorite movies, television shows, as well as quotes. This was the time in my life when I was caving into the idea, the calling, however you want to refer to it, of heading onto seminary after my undergraduate years. So, even though I appreciated the church in my earlier growing-up years, I started to appreciate it even more, but that also came with, perhaps, a bit of higher expectation for that church. I guess with that in mind, I had clung to this quote that I copied and pasted as my favorite onto the Facebook profile:

Christians who do not listen to people no longer listen to God. They do nothing but babble, a sign of death in the spiritual life. When the spiritual life dies all that remains is the chatter and clatter of pious pompous words. One who cannot listen cannot speak to a point. To think our time is too valuable to listen is to have no time for God, only time to flow and further one's own follies.

The words emerge from Dieterich Bonhoeffer, who, oddly enough, the church celebrates on April 9, the same day as Easter Sunday this year. It was on April 9, 1945, that Bonhoeffer was tragically killed by the Nazis for his own awe-inspiring civil disobedience. The quote is taken from his work called *Life Together*, where “he recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship” (HarperCollins Publishers).

Evidently with so, so much that must have been on his mind not just for himself, his family, but the whole world at the time, he was still insistent on something as simple, but as incredibly important in listening to one another. As if when we listen to people, we listen to God (!?!). As if he was under the impression that if such true compassion ensued amongst Christian communities and beyond, perhaps such unimaginable evil may have been better contained, at least.

Unfortunately, it isn't just on college campuses where we're under the impression we need to improve our own lives with more knowledge and more of whatever else to better take care of ourselves for the long run. Not that such learning and growing are bad things at all, but there needs to be that awe in the simple act of putting everything aside and listening to another. Because in that other person is a child of God. In that other person is a bit of Jesus Christ himself. After all, the church isn't just about improving our own spiritual health, but empowering us to be better servants of Christ, set free by the power of the Resurrection from sin and death, serving one another. Perhaps, Christ is risen for that, too. Amen (so let it be)!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

FREE community MEAL

Our next FREE community meal will be Thursday, April 27, from 5:00-6pm. So, if you need a night off from cooking dinner or you know of someone else who needs it, help us spread the word. It is FREE for anyone and everyone!

We encourage you to mark your calendars for our next semi-annual congregational meeting following the worship on Sunday, May 21. We hope you can join us as we hear the latest updates of our collective ministry as the Lutheran Church of the Covenant for the sake of the world!





4/2 James Gradert
4/5 Bruce Constant
4/7 Gary Edler
4/10 Jackie Blogna
4/10 Ted Lockmiller
4/20 Tom SusaneK
4/22 Annie Copeland
4/25 Jacqui Knerem
4/27 Charlotte Zaranka



4/9 Deb & Chuck Dickey
Happy 34th Anniversary!

4/15 Toni & Robert Ridgell
Happy 27th Anniversary!

4/15 Sheila & Harry Werner
Happy 44th Anniversary!

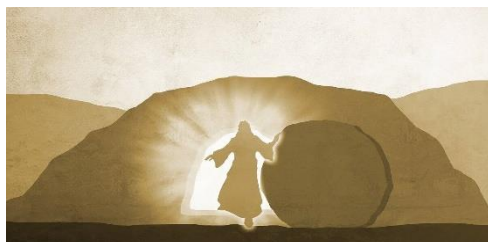
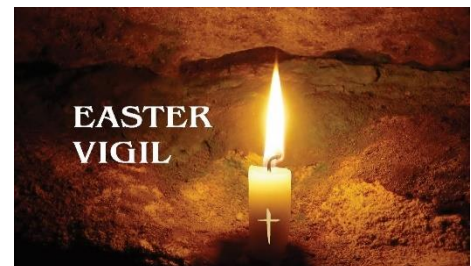


We join our siblings in Christ from the Lutheran Church of the Master for Maundy Thursday (April 6, 7pm) to give thanks and celebrate the meal that is meant for the whole world to enjoy. The worship will take place at Master (860 Northfield Rd., Bedford)



Again, we join our siblings in Christ from Church of the Master here at Covenant for Good Friday (April 7, 7pm). As in years past, we will provide a Service of the Nails for us to understand the immense love Jesus had for us and all children of God, on Calvary. There will be an opportunity for you to place a nail in the cross, if you wish.

On Easter Sunday (April 9), you are invited to start your day early at 7am, as we catch the first glimpse of the Resurrection dawn through a collection of Scripture and hymns, culminating in a thanksgiving for our baptism that unites us to that Resurrection hope meant for us all!



Finally, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 9am on Easter Sunday (April 9), as we proclaim with all the world that Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The logo features a stylized bar chart with four bars of increasing height, topped with a line graph showing an upward trend.

CHURCH LIFE Survey

At our last congregational meeting, we discussed that our council was putting together a survey for the congregation to gauge our Covenant family's hopes and passions, as well as discerning where we believe God is calling us to serve as a community of faith. Paper copies are available at the church, including at the back of the sanctuary. They will also be emailed in addition to our weekly Wednesday's Word. We encourage you to take time to prayerfully consider your thoughts and feelings and respond honestly. We ask you to have your responses turned in by Sunday, April 16 (the Sunday after Easter). You are not required to answer all the questions, but however many you feel comfortable doing so. You may return them through the mail, in-person, or through email to Jen at the church office. These will only be read by mutual ministry and council members. We hope this will lead to an honest discussion about our congregational identity, including where we believe God is guiding us in ministry going forward. As always, we thank you for being part of the Covenant family. Blessings to all of you!

"I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE WOMEN
WHO SHOWED UP TO THE TOMB EASTER MORNING.
THEY SHOWED UP READY TO
WALK THROUGH RITUALS OF GRIEF
AND SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR FRIEND.
THAT WAS WOMENS WORK
IN THOSE DAYS, TENDING TO
THOSE VULNERABLE THINGS.
BUT IT'S ONLY IN ATTENDING TO
THE VULNERABLE THINGS
THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO
WITNESS A MIRACLE."

- RACHEL HELD EVANS



From all of us at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant, we pray God's blessings of Resurrection hope and new life for you and yours this Easter season and always! Christ is Risen for you!



And from the diaper dandies, may you feel whatever embrace is needed to know you are loved.



The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

April 2023

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1 5:00 pm Saturday Service 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	2 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist	3 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting in Nursery	4 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting in Parish Hall	5	6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist LCM	7 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall 7:00 Good Friday Service of Nails	8 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	9 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Easter Vigil 9:00 am Eucharist	10	11 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting Hall 12:30pm W&M 7:00 pm council meeting	12	13	14 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	15 5:00 pm Saturday Service 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	16 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Eucharist	17 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting in Nursery	18 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting Parish Hall	19	20	21 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	22 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck, Jane Skowronski	23 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Eucharist	24	25 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting in Parish Hall	26	27 5:00-6:00pm Community Meal in Hall	28 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	29 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck, Jane Skowronski	30 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Eucharist						

Church office will be closed the week after Easter. Monday April 10th-Saturday April 15th.

Covenant News

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137



Covenant Lutheran Women Annual Plant Sale

Order forms are coming. As soon as Arlene Lasher has the dates for order deadline confirmed for April, it will be announced in bulletin and on the website.