

May, 2022

**MARK: MY WORDS**

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples met were locked …” John 20:19. We were able to hear these opening words from the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter differently than last year. At that time we were still “locked” down to in-person worship due to the pandemic. It was a strange and eerie Lent, Holy Week, and Easter that we had to endure with no congregation to sing, pray, or share the Sacrament.

 This year we were blessed to be able gather once again to walk the forty days with Jesus into His passion, suffering, and death and join in the celebration of The Resurrection. The journey was sometimes halting, as is our passage through this life. We went from requiring masks to making them optional to largely worshiping without them by Easter morning.

 That is no small thing. Over the course of the two years when the number of positive cases and deaths raged and rose, not just around the world or the United States, but in La Porte County, there were times when we wondered if we were ever going to be able to come together in-person again. We felt discouraged, defeated, and weary of the precautions. We just wanted things to be “normal” once more.

 Of course, we had to re-think our definition of “normal.” Many lives were touched and injured and sometimes devastated by the virus. Social distancing, hand washing, and decisions about vaccines became not only part of our daily lives but often seemed to control them. We had to consider consequences of simple acts like going to the store or being around people that never occurred to us before. We needed to remain constantly vigilant against putting ourselves in situations that may expose us to infection.

 All of this reinforced our experience that, as I mentioned in the Easter morning homily, death in some form always wins out. The lead story on the news every night during that period was about new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from the virus. It impacted every aspect of our lives and diminished them in so many ways.

 But as Luke proclaimed, death does not have the final word. The One Who has emerged forever on the other side of it is now on the loose in the world, “bringing peace, doing good, and bringing healing,” in the words of Peter in Easter’s First Reading from Acts. We are surely not beyond the virus’s threat. We keep hearing about the new variant that is more contagious than the last, and numbers are rising around the world and in our country once again.

 So, we take nothing for granted. We continue to be cautious with our worship practices. We remain vigilant, always looking out for the well-being of our sisters and brothers. We treasure each time we are able to assemble on the Lord’s Day and entrust ourselves to Him Who is leading us through this deathly threat into new ways of “bringing peace, doing good, and bringing healing” to others in His name.



 It is budget time again; and our spring congregational meeting is when we review, discuss, and vote whether to approve the church and school proposals. We will also be taking the second vote required to ratify the new church constitution. The meeting has been set for **Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m.** in the St. Paul Room. We need a quorum of 51 eligible voting members in order to conduct our official business. As an added enticement the Council has scheduled a congregational potluck immediately following the meeting. They will provide the entrée of chicken; and we ask that you bring sides, salads, and desserts as you wish and as you are able.

 **Please** make every effort to be with us at worship that morning and then at the meeting and potluck following. The Spirit’s guidance comes through our speaking and listening, our praying and deciding together.



**SCHOOL GRADUATION**

 For several years before COVID, we hosted the 8th grade graduation service as part of our regular Saturday worship service. After a two-year change in that schedule, we are happy to return to that format. On **Saturday, May 28** (Memorial Day weekend) we will celebrate the graduation of our students during our liturgy. Once again, the students will choose a speaker from the teaching staff and our Principal, Tracey McCay, and the School Team will be present to honor our graduates and send them on their way into the next phase of their educational journey.

 This arrangement is a wonderful way to keep our congregation and school connection going. We hope that, if you are able to attend that service even if you normally worship on Sundays, you will join us to give thanks for these young men and women and wish them blessings on their high school careers.



**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOUS**

As I pointed out at the beginning of the Easter morning liturgy, our worship during Holy Week and that morning were made possible by so many who volunteered their time and energy to make music, help lead worship, sing, decorate, videotape and live stream services, usher, and assist with Communion.

 There are too many to identify by name, but if you saw those stand up as their groups were called that morning, you could see the tremendous effort it takes to put together special festival services. It all came together so beautifully. The music was powerful and uplifting. The flowers and decorations were breathtaking. The worship services went smoothly and meaningfully (except where I goofed up ☹).

 Our attendance for Easter was 149, the most worshipers we have had at one time in over two years. My hope is that all of this made this year’s completion to the forty days of Lent especially moving and uplifting for those who participated and attended. Thank you to everyone who served in some way; and if you saw who stood, please make sure that you thank them personally for their ministry to us all.



**A PERSONAL NOTE**

Thank you to all who continue to inquire about my health and condition with my heart. I am thankful to report that over a year after receiving the electro cardioversion that shocked my heart back into regular sinus rhythm, it continues to remain there. With help from some medication, I remain healthy and able to engage in the exercise that is so important to me.

 I have an appointment with my cardiology nurse practitioner at the end of May; and if results are good, she told me that I could stretch my visits with her and my cardiologist to six months. I continue to work hard to maintain good healthy habits and overall well-being. Thanks for your concern and prayers.

Pastor Reshan

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**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

As always, the feast of The Ascension falls on a Thursday (this year, May 26). As in the past, we will move our celebration to the following Sunday (May 29; or also to Saturday, May 28—the day of the school graduation) to make sure we have yet another opportunity to explore the mystery of this triumphant event in Jesus’ life.

 On that Saturday, the commencement address will take the place of the sermon; but the readings, prayers, and hymns will all deal with that festival day.



**INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

 For the first time in two years, our Synod Assembly will take place in person in Muncie from June 9-11. Janet Bakken and I will represent the congregation at the meetings. This year is significant because we will elect a bishop for a six-year term.

 I will be returning on Friday evening so that I might be present for the Saturday worship. If there is an emergency during those days, you may reach me as always on my cell phone: 630-450-1894.

![C:\Users\volunteer\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\JUAK50WD\thank-you[1].jpg]()

**IN MEMORY OF LOIS WEST** (Bob Kiser’s sister)

**Capital Improvement Fund** from Susan Dolson, John & Amy VanGemeren

**IN HONOR OF RON JOHNSON**

**Capital Improvement Fund** from the Johnson Women

**IN MEMORY OF JOYCE MANNING**

**General Fund** from Allen & Sandra Esmoer

**IN HONOR OF ED RIDDLE**

**General Fund** from Mike & Annette Scroggin

**IN MEMORY OF ALLEN KRING**

**General Fund** from Al & Sue Green



**Thanks to all who gave flowers to decorate our chancel on Easter:**

Maxine Powell in loving memory of husband Clint Powell and daughter Connie Hollis

Judy Mutchler in honor of daughter Cheryl

Mike & Amy Maesch

Jason & Carey Howard in loving memory of mother Christine Leslie and father John Foldenauer

Mike & Donna Knoll in memory of loved ones

Richard Cains in memory of wife Suzanne Cains

Don & Beth Thompson in loving memory of mother Suzanne Cains

and parents Palmer & Ruth Thompson and in honor of father Richard Cains

Janet Bakken in memory of loved ones and in honor of family and friends

Sandy Robbins in memory of husband Henry “Sonny” Robbins

Tim & Stacie Crozier

Trish Sprague in memory of loved ones

Chip & Audrey Claussen in memory of all loved ones

Beverly Johnson in loving memory of husband Ron Johnson

Bob & Karen Kiser in memory of loved ones

Carol Radke in memory of loved ones

David & Amy Haring in memory of mother Suzanne Cains

Emma & Abby Haring in memory of grandmother Suzanne Cains

Steve & Lauretta Hapke in memory of loved ones

Carol & Fred Weiss in memory of son Donald Weiss

Rich & Karen Fleming in honor and memory of people of Ukraine

Mary Knaup in memory of husband Dennis Knaup

Marjory & Mike Bockover in memory of loved ones

Susan Koziel in memory of my husband and in honor of my children and grandchildren

Richard & Kathy Thielman in loving memory of Don & Des Thielman, Lori Hall,

and Norman & Marcella O’Donnell

Susan Bagby in memory of parents Raymond & Hazel Reiter

Melinda Nagle in memory of parents Randy & Lois Miller

Pamela & Richard Henderson in memory of mother Suzanne Cains, in memory of brother Gary Henderson, and in honor of Madeline and Audrey Henderson

Diane Gielow in memory of loved ones

Libby Pollock in loving memory of husband John and daughter Jenise

Charles and Jana Thomas in memory of Otto Meyer family, in memory of Allie Thomas family, in memory of Stanley Redmon, and in memory of Steve Doster

Virginia Murray in memory of husband Robert Murray



 **May Birthdays May Anniversaries**

 2 Isabella Robbins 1 Leigh & Beverly Coburn

 4 Tim Mellen 2 Charles & Carol Thomas II

 Kimberly Payne 5 James & Bernadette Krueger

 William Seedorf 6 Christian & Cynthia Scheuchner

 5 Rachel Sutor 19 Fred & Judy LaBorn

 6 Charles Payne 26 Steve & Darlene Baker

 Brittany Strelesky 29 Clay & Kimberly Payne

 7 Marcy Petri

 8 Abby Haring

 11 Audrey Henderson

 16 Patricia Miller

 17 Melinda Nagle

 18 Judy Reshan

 20 Donna Collins

 21 Hallee Petri

 24 Bonnie Ziesmer

 25 Marvin Dirks

 Chandler Fisher

 Pamela Kienitz

 Charles Thomas, Sr.

 26 Emma Robbins

 27 Krysten Fratgillo

 30 Charles Ponder, Sr.

 Sally Timm

 31 Audrey Claussen

 Pamela Hackett



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Robert Atwood Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt

Donna Bostaer Sherry Brotsky Laura Dovey

Laura Eilers-Straight Marta Furness Diane Gielow

Jim Gleason Ed Gustum Dolores Hackett

Heidi Happel Patsy Humbers Terry Hygema

Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser Ryan Krueger

Tom & Larry Leuth Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning

Christian Martinez Laura Moore Ken Mulder

Shane Nevels Duane Ormsby George Ottersen

Jan Paholski Kay Peglow Cameron Rackard

Wally & Betty Ratliff Annette Scoggins Knox Shepherd

Ryan Sirk Erik Tannehill Jary Tannehll

Kathy Thielman Jean Thomas Lee Timm

Venia Wendt



 Monday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

 Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

 Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Staff**

 Pastor Mark Reshan

 Organist John Remmel

 Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

 Choir Director Lori Zylstra

 Office Secretary Libby Pollock

 Custodian Mark Kloess

 School Principal Tracey McCay

 School Office Coordinator Lisa Heddens

 School Custodian Dennis Pugh



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Thank$ for $haring

Thanks to all who attended the Swingbelly’s give back in March. We raised $150 at that event.

This month,we will see you at Holly’s! We’re giving you two coupons so you can invite a friend and give them their own coupon. Remember, the coupon is required for the Give-Back bucks.

  