

# APRIL

FRIENDS IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *Newsletter* 2016

### PASTOR'S ARTICLE...

**Today is March 31, 2016  
and Jesus Christ is Still Risen!**

This is the single most important truth of all time and for every life.

Jesus is living.

What we say in the Easter greeting is very distinct. It is not the same as saying that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. That would be past tense. We say "Christ is risen."

It may be a fine point in grammar but it is a huge difference in claims. For example, we could say that Lazarus rose. He was in the tomb; he was raised; all well and good. But some time later Lazarus died. Not so with Jesus. What Lazarus experienced was a temporary change in the normal pattern. But as time went on he would grow old and die. Not so with Jesus. What He did is forever.

What exactly are we saying? We are making an amazing set of claims. (And then there are some amazing implications – what does this mean for us?)

*(con't...)*

### SAVE THE DATES

**April 6** – LWML

**April 11** – Senior Service

**April 12** – Friendly Seniors

**April 17** – Youth Night



# PASTOR'S ARTICLE

(con't)...

1. It is almost 2,000 years later. Jesus is still living, with a risen and living forever body – the same one that hung on the cross and was laid in the tomb.

(Because He is risen in this way, one day when Jesus returns I will be able to see Him face to face, and touch Him with my own hands, just like Thomas was invited to do. Because Jesus rose in this way the whole Bible from beginning to end celebrates the promises: “whom I will see with my own eyes” (Job 19:27); “You will not abandon my soul to Sheol ... in Your presence there is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (David in Psalm 16); “and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake” (Daniel 12:2); “and behold a great multitude that no one could number, ... standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9). And then we join in and say, “I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” (The Apostles’ Creed) The hope we have is in the Bible from beginning to end.)

2. Jesus is among us, able to be present with us when we worship, next to us when we are going through problems, quietly hearing our prayers and answering.

(We are not alone. Jesus did not rise and go back up into heaven and leave us. When we say “Christ is risen!” we are also saying that the living Lord Jesus is very much in our lives. This changes everything. It means that no matter what happens today, or tomorrow, I have the living Jesus with me at all times. He is there when I am unsure and when I have no idea of what will happen tomorrow, or next week, month, or year – which, I guess, is pretty much every day. He is there when there are blessings in life and He is the one behind them. I can talk to Him whenever and for any reason; and He knows what is going on inside my soul. Bottom line – Jesus is involved in our lives and I am not alone. The same Jesus who defeated the devil, dealt with my sin, and absolutely destroyed the tomb is going with me through everything. The end of my journey through this life is assured and it is glorious! The rest is temporary. I love to say, “The most important thing in any trip is who you are traveling with; the rest is scenery.” That’s how it is with life and most especially life lived with the living Jesus in my life. Some of the most amazing scenery in life comes on the detours, the parts off the beaten path. Remember who you are traveling with. Remember His power and that He lives for you and is with you. Have you not seen the hand of God? Has He not done amazing things in your life? This is your journey with Jesus. He is going with you and when you get to the end you will have some amazing stories.)

# PASTOR'S ARTICLE

(con't)...

3. What's more, Jesus is guiding the course of history, gathering one person after another into His kingdom, sharing eternal life with each one as He calls them to believe in Him. (This is the plan. It's not what most everyone else thinks it is. It is incredibly complicated, amazingly involved. But there is a constant truth. Running through all that happens, the living, risen Lord Jesus is doing His work. All around the world Jesus is spreading the Gospel, filling the world with His name, building His kingdom – gathering people from every nation, tribe and language to live forever through believing in Him. He is God, and He is able to work in the lives of millions (no, billions) of people at the same time. He reaches out, invites, speaks His word into our souls, and calls countless multitudes into a relationship with Him.

And He does this individually, dealing with each one personally. We know the truth of this in our lives. As Christians we talk about how He has called us personally. While we come together in Church we know that Jesus knows us individually. It is an amazing thing to be known in this way by the Lord who rules the whole universe.

In the pattern of this world there are so many places where you are important only if you fit into the plans of the important, or into "the movement." But when you come to Jesus in prayer, He hears you, just as you, His friend that He invited and cares about. There are no "little" or "unimportant" prayers, because what Jesus is doing is building His kingdom one person at a time; and in each moment between Jesus and you, you are that "one person." This is part of what it means that "Christ is Risen." Jesus lives and is in our lives.)

4. Although the nations of the world and the leaders of the nations think they are guiding history Jesus is actually in charge and the book of Revelation calls Him "the ruler of kings on earth."

(This is important. It is comforting.

We look around and see turmoil and confusion. Jobs, economy, international events, shifting truths, and so on – so much in life is in flux. Uncertainty and worry seems to be normal. Rival groups propose wildly different ideas of how to solve everything.

But remember that we are a part of something bigger. It does not come and go. It is not temporary.

Unseen to the pundits and untraced by the great "movers and shakers" of our age, Jesus is doing His work. He is still the Risen, Living Lord. He has all authority (Matthew 28:18). He is able to bend and steer and make everything work together according to His plan.

It's not our plan. It does not fit our understanding or serve our whims and wants of the day. It is His plan and it is glorious. He is forming and building His kingdom.

Through all the turmoil, remember – you belong. Jesus is building an eternal kingdom and you are part of it.

Even while Jesus is governing the grand scope of history, He is also guarding and keeping you. He will not lose you. You can smile at the days ahead, because you are walking with the same Jesus who broke the tomb, walked the road to Emmaus and ate "a piece of broiled fish" to share the truth of eternal life with His disciples. So this is Jesus plan. He said it plainly, and here it is in His own words.

"Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19))

Rejoice because "Christ is risen" and you belong to Him.

Pastor Mark

*BUT WAIT!...THERE IS MORE!...*

Now at the beginning of the Easter Season we continue in our weekend services with:

*“Evangelism After the Cross.”*

**April 2-3:** Evangelism on the Emmaus Road

**April 9-10:** Evangelism in the Upper Room

**April 16-17:** Evangelism by the Good Shepherd.



## ***Youth Night***

Sixteen kids and adults had a great time  
at Youth Night in March!

Our next Youth Night is planned for  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 17 at 5 pm.**

*Bring a friend!*





## Senior Service

The Senior Service this month continues the celebration of Easter.  
It will be **MONDAY, APRIL 11 at 1 p.m.** Come celebrate Easter!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

**On Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at 7:00 p.m.** and for our program we will be viewing the film The First Rosa, the untold story of Lutheran educator and church planter Rosa J. Young. Please plan to attend. Guests are welcome.

**Our LWML Zone Rally will be at Zion Naperville. It will be from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.** and they will serve breakfast. The theme is "REJOICE, REJOICE!" There will be a group going, meeting at church at 7:30 to travel together. If you are interested, please let Paula know.



# LWML

## *Friendly* SENIORS

Friendly Seniors had a nice lunch at Maria's in March!

Our next dinner will be at  
**MORRIS DINER @ 5:30p.m.**

We are looking forward to seeing you there.



## BIRTHDAYS FOR APRIL

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gary Gillette	21 <sup>st</sup>	Michael Kahn
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kris Farber	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Alexx Mann
6 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Carlson	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Deidre Carlson
	Shaye Carter		Judie Thompson
7 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Benner		Alexa Thorson
13 <sup>th</sup>	Willene Turner		
17 <sup>th</sup>	Adolph Wendling	26 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob VanHeiden
19 <sup>th</sup>	Marge Anderson		
	Brenda Collins		

## ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL

7 <sup>th</sup>	Don & Judy Johnson	54 years
9 <sup>th</sup>	Richard & Earlene Enervold	55 years
	Duane & Mary Heren	61 years
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Kathy Wills	40 years
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Michael & Laurie Applebee	28 years
24 <sup>th</sup>	Harold & Norma Carlson	51 years
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin & Mary Olson	24 years
26 <sup>th</sup>	Gary & Irene Gamauf	41 years (?)

## IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

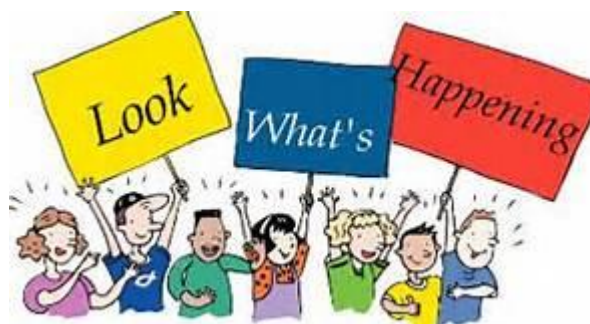
Congratulations to:

the Frantzen family and  
grandparents, Mike and Vicki  
Kahn

AND

the Sarto Family and Grandma,  
Georgette Walker

on the birth of your babies!




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Easter Communion 6:30am - Worship 7:30am - Easter Bkfst 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Easter Bkfst	28	29 9am - Bible Study	30 7pm - 7th Gd Conf	31 7pm - Trustees Meeting	1	2 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
3 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	4	5 9am - Bible Study 1pm - Euchre Club 4pm - Elders Meeting	6 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf 7pm - LWML	7	8	9 5:30pm - Worship
10 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	11 1pm - Senior Service	12 9am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Friendly Srs.	13 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	14	15	16 Communion 5:30pm - Worship
17 Communion 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship 5pm - Youth Night	18	19 9am - Bible Study	20 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	21 4pm - Mission Meeting	22	23 5:30pm - Worship
24 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Sun. Sch. 10:45am - Worship	25	26 9am - Bible Study	27 5:41pm - 7th Gd Conf	28 6pm - Trustees Meeting	29	30 Communion 5:30pm - Worship



# Prayer Calendar

# APRIL 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1 Pray daily for: Pastor Willig and our church staff and their families. Missionaries all over the world. Iglesia San Pablo Church. Christians being persecuted everywhere.</p>	<p>2 Lord, we are in the new season of spring where things grow and flourish. Help us to give our faith a new way to grow and flourish. Dust off our Bibles and grow us in faith in you O Lord.</p>
<p>3 Prepare our hearts to hear your Word and to worship You Lord.</p>	<p>4 Lord be with those who are reaching out to unbelievers through People of the Book Lutheran Outreach. Open hearts and ears of the unbelievers to become believers and share the Word of God with others.</p>	<p>5 Lord, give me an opportunity to invite a friend to a Church event, Youth night or Worship service. Romans 10:14</p>	<p>6 Lord, help us to not forget to bring things in for We care. So many are in need at this time.</p>	<p>7 Lord bless those who attend Iglesia San Pablo Church and help them to grow in faith in you.</p>	<p>8 Lord, lift up the projects of Samaritan's Purse around the world as they work in Jesus Name to help those who are hurting, grieving, or lost.</p>	<p>9 Lord, there are so many Christian refugees in the Mideast please be with them guide and help them to stay faithful to you in there time of need. Help them to find a safe haven to live where they can be safe and worship you.</p>
<p>10 Thank you so much Lord, for the opportunity to worship together in a public church with wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. Bless those who enter the doors of our church and bring them to know You and grow in You.</p>	<p>11 Dear Lord, every day of my life is a journey with You. Open my heart to grow as You walk with me.</p>	<p>12 Lord as children and adults go to Walcamp Outdoor Ministries this next year help grow those who attend grow in faith as they have fun and learn about you.</p>	<p>13 Be with the farmers as they prepare the land and start planting. Bless the farmers and the crops they plant.</p>	<p>14 We have those in our congregation looking for jobs. Bless them with the job you want them to have. Help us to evangelize in school and at work .</p>	<p>15 God, in the midst of struggle, remind us to look to you for wholeness, comfort, love and peace that passes all understanding. Phil. 4:6-7</p>	<p>16 Lord, teach us to PRAY as little children pray.</p>
<p>17 Lord, create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10</p>	<p>18 Lord, bless those who attend the Senior Service. Fill them your love as they worship You and have fellowship together.</p>	<p>19 As we get ready for the K.Y.K.S. program. Put the shoes in our path that you would have us purchase for the program. You know what is needed we put this in Your hands Lord to guide and lead us in this special mission.</p>	<p>20 Thank you for the special people who have come to worship at our Church. Bless them in their everyday lives. Help them to feel welcome as they come and worship you O Lord.</p>	<p>21 Lord, prepare the hearts of our young adults as they think about going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. Give them a hunger for Your Word Lord.</p>	<p>22 Lord, help us to trust the plans you have made for us. Give us a future with hope.</p>	<p>23 Lord, when we call on You in our day of trouble, deliver us so that we may glorify You. Psalm 50:15</p>
<p>24 Lord, our youth are so important to all of us at Friends in Christ. Please grow our youth night. Bless the youth that attend and give them a hunger to learn more about you as we have fun while learning about your love for us.</p>	<p>25 Thank you Lord, for your many promises revealed through Scripture that give us hope. Rom. 5:1-5</p>	<p>26 Lord, Bible Study is growing. We ask that at some point you would bless us with finding another room to have Bible study in because we run out of room for so many show up we need to move.</p>	<p>27 As we take a walk in our neighborhoods help us to be a light to others for you Lord. Put the correct words into our mouths to bring others to you.</p>	<p>28 Lord, thank you for the different times and ways you answer our prayers.</p>	<p>29 Lord, thank you for the simple things in our lives.</p>	<p>30 Thank you for our Pastor as he preaches from your Word. Bless him as he works on the sermons. Open our hearts and minds as we listen to your Word.</p>