

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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April 2021

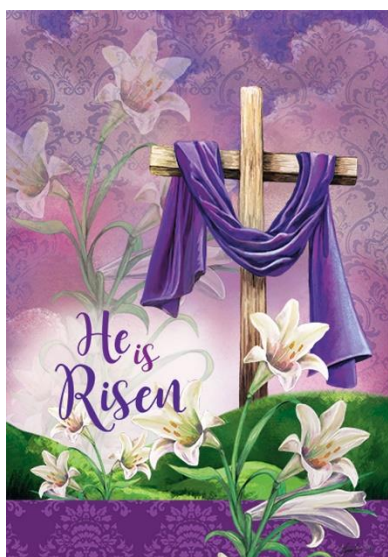
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!

Easter is a very special time of the year. It's the time when we have the opportunity to celebrate and embrace the greatest fact of all time - eternal life.

"If a man dies, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Man has been trying to answer that question since the beginning of time. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has the answer which is backed by the proof of His own victory over death. Now He promises to every believer: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Elsewhere in John's Gospel He says: "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

A famous philosopher once said, "I would become a Christian if I could be sure of the resurrection of Christ." We can be sure! The very existence of the Church, built on the fact of the empty grave, proves the resurrection of Christ. The name of Christ and the Church He founded would never have been heard of again if He hadn't risen. That's why there was such an upsurge in the Church and why the once hiding disciples had new found courage. But most importantly we have the evidence in Christ Himself. He said He would rise and He did. The resurrection proves Him to be the Son of God, and as the Son of God He endorsed the Bible, saying: "Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Death is no longer death in the old sense - eternal death. It is victory and triumph, the door to eternal life. Every believer can express with full assurance and confidence, "I shall not die, but live."



Job writes, "I know that my Redeemer lives, ... in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25-26). With faith in Christ we, through death, enter into the almighty presence of the living and loving God.

We triumphantly and joyfully exclaim, "He lives! He lives!" The very foundation on which our Christian faith rests is the resurrection from the dead by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May you enjoy this joyous Easter season!

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kuuz

Planning a Routine

If you've ever uttered the phrase, "my head is about to explode" you know your brain won't reach critical mass and self-destruct. You say it because your mind has been pushed to exhaustion as a result of the thousands of decisions we make every day. Many of those decisions require immediate deliberations about our options. Other decisions are so routine they are performed subconsciously. We make coffee, brush our teeth, or perhaps even drive to work without thinking because we've performed the task so many times.

Where does exercising fit into the above scenario? Perhaps each day a decision has to be made whether or not to exercise or if at some point we'll decide if something else takes priority. In the moment, we can talk ourselves out of what's best for our health. One way to thwart last-minute changes is to make the decision in advance. In a study published in *Psychological Science*, researchers studied a trait they called "planfulness" and its correlation to how often people exercise. The study confirmed that those who plan for exercise – whether a week or even just a day in advance – exercise more consistently. That settles the debate: **making** the time for exercise is more effective than **finding** the time.

Planfulness involves putting in writing on your calendar the days and times in the coming week you'll exercise. Yes, that still involves thinking, but it's being made before your day gets going and provides protection against the hour-by-hour decision-making of what you'll do next. Eventually, the plotting of your waking hours and how you'll use them will turn into what makes exercising easier: a routine.

Routines take the constant thinking out of the equation because they become imbedded in the day – they become second nature. For example, just like making coffee each day, you know exercise is going to happen. Just like brushing your teeth, exercise is what you do each day to care for your health. Just like driving, you won't have to think about how to work the buttons on the treadmill or think

through which sidewalks to walk down because those decisions will be second nature – you've done them many times before.

For me, morning exercise has become a natural part of my day. When the alarm goes off, there's no need for me to decide what to do. I automatically get out of bed, reach for my sneakers and grab the workout clothes that will complement that morning's activity. Healthy, habitual routines may seem mundane, but what you'll find is that once established, they are a dependable, driving force that can kick in on those days you may not feel like caring for your health.

Did You Know?

A study published in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology* found that pregnant women who exercised three times a week for 20-minutes improved their child's brain function and development. In addition, the babies of mothers who exercised were slightly ahead of other babies in their ability to grip, jostle and control how they rolled.

Get Your Dosage of Green

A very small study in *Frontiers in Psychology* showed that spending just 20 minutes outdoors in God's creation – your yard, park or green space – can help lower stress hormone levels.

The research involved 36 people who spent three days a week for eight weeks outdoors where they could either walk and/or sit during their "green time." Researchers used saliva samples to measure cortisol levels (a stress hormone) before and after being outdoors. The results showed that being outside at least 20 minutes was associated with the biggest drop in cortisol levels.

(from "Better Health" Spring 2021)

Voters' Meeting April 25th
following the service.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Plastic Mats: We are still meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1:30 to work on our plastic mats for the homeless population to use for sleeping cushions. However, we are going to use the supplies we have on hand and will then move on to different projects. Therefore, please do not bring anymore plastic shopping bags to the Fellowship Hall. If anyone is willing to help us complete these mats with the supplies we have on hand, either join us on one of our project days or talk with Carol Krepline about the directions to work on these at home. The mats are highly valued by the homeless, but we are no longer able to continue with the few workers we have.

Gifts from the Heart: Our upcoming ingathering, now known as Gifts from the Heart, will be supplies for A Place of Refuge in Milwaukee. As you recall, A Place of Refuge (APOR) in Milwaukee is a residence for pregnant women who do not have a safe place to live. While they live at APOR, they are provided with safety, bedrooms, meals, counseling, referrals to any necessary agencies, mentoring and transportation. Most importantly, they receive the love of Jesus by means of caring workers. The workers provide daily devotions, Bible studies and transportation to area Lutheran churches. Very often, the moms come to know Jesus, and when the babies are born, many of them are baptized. This is a wonderful and productive way to be a missionary in our own area.

The items that APOR needs are divided into three categories: baby items, pantry items and household supplies. In order to give you ideas on how to help, we will be providing a bulletin insert and will post a supplies list on the bulletin board. The list is also in this newsletter. Our

target date for receiving these items is Mothers' Day. Each year we are joyfully received when we bring our gifts for these needy moms and their babies. Every item helps, and we appreciate all the love you share.

Bible studies: At each of our regular meetings on the third Tuesday, we have a Bible study. As all women of the congregation are counted as Women In Mission, all are encouraged to join us for Bible study. Our thanks to Pastor Krueger leading most of our studies over the last few years. Our April meeting will be a special meeting with Missionary Ashley Lehr. Please see the Mission Matters article and bulletin announcements for details.



Mission Matters

Ashley Lehr

About a year and a half ago the Women in Mission hosted missionary candidate Ashley Lehr, from Faith Lutheran, Appleton, as a speaker at one of our meetings. At that time, she was sharing information about her appointment as a GEO (short term) missionary to Puerto Rico with LCMS. She was excited about learning Spanish and preparing herself to start working with the missionaries already settled in Puerto Rico. As a small gift to her for her support, we sent her half of the proceeds from our Christmas bake sale. After a short term in the Dominican Republic as part of her orientation, Ashley has been sharing God's Word in Puerto Rico.

As of February, Ashley has accepted a call from LCMS to become a career missionary. She will continue to be working in Puerto Rico, but is currently in the States for additional training and orientation as well as some personal time. She will be in Wisconsin during most of April, and has agreed to attend our WIM meeting on April 20 to update us on her past experiences and her plans for the future.

It isn't often we have the opportunity to hear a missionary in person, especially a young

woman from our own part of Wisconsin. We have also invited the women from St. Bartholomew and St. Luke to join us to hear about Ashley's experiences and her opportunities to share the love of Jesus. She is excited about her future work, and is eager to update us. Please join us at 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall on April 20. Bring any friends who may be interested, and especially join us in inviting our sisters from area congregations. We will be having a free will offering to assist Ashley in her work and will have a short social hour after her presentation. We will wear masks and socially distance as we are able. Hope to see you there!

Calumet County Aging & Disability Resource Center NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to truly make a difference in someone's life? Volunteering for the Calumet County Aging & Disability Resource Center's (ADRC) Volunteer Programs are looking for volunteers. We are in need of volunteer drivers and volunteers to:

- Take people to appointments;
- Help at one of our nutrition sites that are currently open (Brillion, Chilton or Hilbert) getting the home delivered meals ready for delivery or delivering the meals to the participants.
- We are also looking for home delivered meals drivers in Appleton. The meals are picked up at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center p/n/a AMC to residents in the Calumet County portion of Appleton.

We do offer volunteer drivers mileage reimbursement at the federal rate which is \$.56 cents per mile with a minimum of \$5.60 for a trip 10 miles or less. If you feel like this is something you would like to do, please contact Kathy Groeschel, Calumet County ADRC Volunteer Coordinator at (920) 849-1451 for more information.

Items needed for A Place of Refuge...

Household Items

Walmart Gift Cards
Gas cards
Paper towels
Thermometers
Paper Towels
Plastic Storage Bags
Large Plastic Storage Tote

Pantry Items

Spaghetti Sauce
Tomato Juice
Vegetable Oil
Apple juice boxes
Frosting
Canned fruit in its own juice
Canned Peas
Canned Green Beans
Canned Corn (not creamed)

Moms and Babies

Diapers sizes 3,4,5, & 6
Infant Wash cloths/bath towels
Infant toys & Board Books
Nursing pads
Prenatal vitamins
Infant & Adult Tylenol
Infant Sleepers
Infant Socks
Baby Powder
Bibs
Infant Headbands
Baby Monitors

PASTOR PETERSON ACCEPTS CALL

Pastor Mark Peterson has accepted the call to serve as the pastor of the dual parish of St. Peter and St. Luke. The tentative plan is for him to be installed on Sunday, May 23. At this time, we do not know when he will be moving. We will be looking for volunteers to help unload the moving truck. Watch for more details.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – April 2021

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the

other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

BAPTISM SHELL & PASHCAL CANDLE

**Thank you to the Doris Bergelin Memorial Fund
for the donation of a new Baptism shell and
Paschal candle.**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- April 11th Dennis & Joanne Hernke
- April 20th Tom & Berd Piepenburg
- April 25th Brian & Laurie Mathes
- April 26th Steve & Laurie Ecker
- April 28th Steve & Kathy Hemauer

PASTOR ON VACATION

April 5-12

If an emergency should arise and you seek pastoral care, contact Pastor Thomas Schmitt of St. Martin, Chilton (920) 418-1559 or one of the elders.



April

- 1 Katlin Krepline
- 4 Kaitlyn Sowinski
- 8 MaryKay Hein
- 12 Francis Raddatz
- 13 Matthew Bunnell
- 15 Melissa DuPrey
- 25 Nicole Meyers
Joesph Fletcher
- 27 Carol Krepline
- 28 Brooke Voigt
- 30 Dan Boesch

HE HAS RISEN. HAVE FAITH
IN HIM AND HE WILL
ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU!

HAVE A BLESSED AND
HAPPY EASTER!

Our Response to His Love

	2-28-21	2-21-21	2-17-21	2-14-21	2-7-21	1-31-21	1-24-21	1-17-21	1-10-21
General Fund	\$1321	\$1530	\$230	\$3410	\$2675	\$720	\$2655	\$1100	\$2590
Missions				\$10		\$5			\$20
BibleSticks		\$100							
Totals	\$1321	\$1630	\$230	\$3420	\$2675	\$725	\$2655	\$1100	\$2610

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus, Bonnie Ott, Bonnie Teinert				1 Maundy Thursday <i>White</i> 6:30p Divine Service	2 Good Friday <i>Bare</i> 6:30p Divine Service (NC)	3
4 Easter Sunday <i>White</i> 10:30 Divine Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
----- Pastor Vacation ----->						
11 Second Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 10:30 Divine Service (NC)	12	13 1:30p Women in Mission Project Day 6:00p Elders Meeting	14	15	16	17
<----- Pastor Vacation -----						
18 Third Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 10:30 Divine Service	19	20 2:30p WIM Meeting & Bible Study	21	22	23	24
----- District Pastors Conference -----						
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>White</i> 10:30 Divine Service (NC) Voters Meeting	26	27 1:30p Women in Mission Project Day	28	29	30	

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion