

Easter Triumph, Easter Joy

A April is always an exciting time of year. It is a time where the snow should finally be fully melted. It is a time when the air is becoming consistently warm. The flowers are beginning to bloom and the trees are turning green. We are cleaning out our houses and homes, and getting ready for summer. Spring has arrived, and with that comes the most important of all holidays- Lent and Easter.

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I During this season of Lent we have gone over the topic “You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.” What a timely message this has been for us all, as we have encountered much evil over these last couple of years. We have witnessed the curse of living in a fallen world, as Covid 19 has taken the attention of the world. We have witnessed the sinfulness of man as Putin began his invasion of Ukraine. These are massive world changing events, and we have had to deal with both at the same time. Not only do we have to deal with these major issues, but on top of these we still have to get through our daily lives. We still need to do our best in our work, we have families to take care of, friends who need our help. When we see how much there is to do, and how much we fail to accomplish it may feel as though we are lacking. It feels as though we cannot do it all. It can just seem to be too much. At times it may feel as though the joys of spring are drowned out, while the stress and evils of the world prevail. It is in times like this when we need Easter.

L Though it is not strictly an Easter hymn, and though we are not allowed to sing Alleluia in Lent, as I write this article I have the hymn “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” stuck in my head, particularly verse seven which reads “Easter Triumph, Easter Joy! This alone can sin destroy. From sin’s power Lord set us free. Newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia.” In the face of all these things; Putin, Covid, sin, death and the power of the devil, there is only one thing that can truly bring us joy. The truth that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead. Since Jesus has risen from the dead we know that he has triumphed over all things, scripture says that the Father has put all things under his feet. (1 Corinthians 15:27). He has set us free from sin, death and the power of the devil. Instead of being ruled by these things, we are ruled by Christ instead. Because Jesus has risen from the dead we know that these evils are defeated. This includes evil men and dictators, this includes sicknesses like Covid. Therefore we do not fear these things, because Christ has triumphed. Instead of facing these things in fear we face them with joy for Christ is on our side. If death could not defeat him, then nothing will. He has triumphed, and has given joy to creation.

Therefore, live in the joy of Easter’s triumph. Be transformed by the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead. Before Jesus rose from the dead the disciples remained in the upper room cowering in fear. After he rose from the dead they participated in the triumph and the joy by sharing it with others. We live in a world and a culture that are living in fear. There are people in our lives who feel like life is a losing battle. This Easter take the time to remind those in your life about what Easter is truly about. Remind them of Christ’s victory over death, and tell them that that victory belongs to them as well. Jesus Christ is living today; he is our redeemer and our Savior. Rejoice in him, and do not fear the evil of the world. For though we may face and yes even do evil, Christ has triumphed over it all to his glory. Amen.



Pastor Josh

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“You Meant it for Evil, but God Meant it for Good”

Lenten Sermon Series

The Year of our Lord, 2022

Joseph was one of twelve brothers, the favorite son of his father, Jacob, who was renamed “Israel” by God. Joseph, as we heard just a couple of weeks ago had some “tough shoes to fill.” He was blessed early in his life, but then faced the malice of his envious brothers and was sold into slavery in Egypt. He went through many difficult days, but reconciled with his brothers at the end of the book of Genesis.

“You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good,” are some of the words Joseph spoke to his brothers when they were reconciled to him. These words form the theme of our Lenten journey this year. We will look at different parts of Christ’s passion over the coming weeks, understanding that many things happened to Jesus that people certainly “meant for evil.” Yet, God, our Father in heaven, He “meant it for good . . . for the saving of many lives.” The weekly themes for Wednesday services are as follows:

April 6 - Lent Midweek 5

“That Day and Today”

(Luke 23:26-43)

Each Wednesday in Lent at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Final Lenten Dinner

Join us Wednesday April 6th at 4:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall for some wonderful food and fellowship before coming to our 6 pm church service.

April 6: Spaghetti, garlic bread, tossed salad, ice cream sundaes

A kid friendly item will also be served such as hot dogs or chicken nuggets.

Milk, water, juice and coffee will be available as well.

Menus subject to change if necessary.

Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday Weekend
Saturday April 9 at 5:00pm
Sunday April 10 at 8:00 & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday
April 14 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Good Friday
April 15 at 1:00 & 6:00pm

Easter Vigil
April 16 at 5:00pm

Easter Morning
April 17 at 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00am



Voters Meeting

May 1 at 9:15am

Main items of discussion:
Budget and Nominations



St. Paul's 3rd-8th grade Students Present:
"Judge Julie Truly and the Case of the Holy Roof"

based on Luke 5

Friday April 29th - 6:30 PM

St. Paul's Gymnasium

Dress Rehearsal - Thursday April 28th - 1:30 PM (open to the public)

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Breakfast – The Letter to the Colossians

Jesus is to be first in our hearts, first in our lives, first in all our relationships, because He is truly preeminent in all things. In April we will finish up with the call to put off our sin and be “clothed with Christ.” Then we will get into the final chapter of this epistle, with the call to continue steadfast in prayer and the importance of praying for Christian pastors and missionaries who declare “the mystery of Christ.” May God bless us as we grow together in Christ and in putting Him first in all things.

In *April we gather on the 9th & 23rd*. All men are welcome to come. We meet a little before 7am, eat a great breakfast prepared by one of the guys, have some good conversation and study God's precious Word. The 79th street doors are open. Come and bring a friend!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class – Monumental Mountaintops

“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1) Mountains are majestic. Mountains declare the glory of God's creative hand. Mountains have also been central in salvation history. In April and May we will look at some of the significant mountaintop places in God's Word.

We meet at 9:15a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and His Word of truth.

Thursday Morning Bible Class: The Book of James

In the month of April we will move into chapter 4. The call of this chapter of James' epistle is to turn away from worldliness. This is a crucial “call” for our day and age. The culture around us rages against Christianity when it comes to both life and faith. We are called to lament the sins of worldliness, to repent of evil, to turn our laughter to mourning and to humble ourselves before the Lord, knowing that He will lift us up. Hot beverages and baked goods and wonderful conversation fill the fellowship hall. Come and join this great group of Christian folks.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org

Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

Widows Lunch



All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Honey Butter Café 7221 S. 76th Street on Wednesday April 13th at 11:00am.

April Showers
Bring May
Flowers



Quilter's Patch

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays at 9:00am until 11:30am. Below are the dates during April and May we will meet. You are invited to come join us...No sewing experience necessary.

April 4 and 18
May 2 and 16



If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com

LWML Zone 3 Spring Rally April 23, 2022

Attention Ladies – All ladies and young women are invited to the Rally at St. Paul's on April 23, 2022. A breakfast will be served.

The speaker is Michelle Prince, who will be speaking about Orphan Grain Train. Teacher kits for Orphan Grain Train will be collected. Items needed are: Drawstring or tote bags, 12 pack pencils, pencil sharpener, sticker sheets (stars or smiley faces), chalk board, chalk eraser, adult scissors, ruler, red pens, pocket folders, 12 pack chalk.



Music Notes

CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS

We are looking for instrumentalists to share their talents this Easter, Sunday April 17th. Any instrument is welcome. Contact Michelle Prince by April 8th if you are able to play for one, two or more services on Easter Sunday.



(Festival Worship services are at 9 AM & 11 AM). Music will be sent out to instrumentalists. Rehearsal will be Thursday April 14th following the Maundy Thursday worship service (approximately 7 PM)

michelle@splcwa.org ; 414-541-6251 ext. 3013; text: 414-552-4938
[A Vigil Service is Saturday Evening at 5 PM and a Sunrise service on Sunday at 6:30 AM - if you would like to play for either service, please contact Michelle]



Cantata- Wondrous Love

We pray you will enjoy hearing the story of Christ our Suffering Servant, Crucified and Risen Redeemer through song on Saturday April 9th at 5 PM and Sunday April 10th at 8 AM. We know this will give everyone a new way to hear the story again of Christ's ministry, suffering, death and resurrection. The choir is looking forward to sharing this special musical journey with you.

Other Music opportunities: Handbell Choir - Thursday evenings 6:10-7:10 PM- church balcony
Evening Choir - Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30 PM- church balcony
Praise Team - Wednesdays 7:00 PM prior to 2nd/4th Sundays of the month
Vocal or Instrumental Solos/Small Groups - Contact Michelle and play/sing for an upcoming service



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11

GOOD FRIDAY

AS A CHILD, GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES WERE THREE HOURS LONG, AND MANY BUSINESSES CLOSED DURING THAT TIME AS WELL. NOW WE GIVE JESUS ONE HOUR.

THAT ISN'T ENOUGH FOR ME. WATCHING THE PASSION MOVIE BRING THE SCRIPTURES TO LIFE. WHERE WE MAY BE WITH JESUS, WITNESSING THE PAIN AND SUFFERING HE ENDURED. WILLING BEARING OUR SINS AND PUNISHMENT, TO FULFILL GOD'S PLAN OF OUR SALVATION, ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH JESUS, YOUR SAVIOR AS WELL.



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Divine Connections

Thank you

A huge thank you to all who donated coats and blankets during our recent collection. With the help of some of our church members, we were able to deliver approximately 68 coats and 31 blankets to Repairers of the Breach in Milwaukee.

Just a reminder that we continue to provide “We Care” bags for the homeless. They can be found in the Church Narthex.

We are always looking for new ideas and for individuals that have a heart to serve. Please reach out with any ideas or if you are interested in joining the Divine Connections Team.

Our Mission:

“Divine Connections” seeks to divinely connect with others outside St. Paul’s walls and into the community. Through various service opportunities, our hope is to connect and witness to others, as a call to expand God’s kingdom.

Please stay tuned for future collections. We hope and pray that we are able to bless those in need in our community.

If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Barry, 414-416-3989.

**Youth Auction
April 2, 2022**



It's time to place your order for Easter flowers. Order envelopes are by the elevator and at the Welcome Center.

**Deadline to order is April 3.
All plants cost \$20 each.**



Sharing God's Bounty

The End of the Story?

The six-week season of Lent draws to a close. We have heard our Savior's prayer for himself, his disciples, and all of us (John 17). We have been distressed by the disciples' betrayal (Mark 14:50). We have been horrified by the treatment Jesus, an innocent man, received at the hands of his own people and the Roman governor and his soldiers. Our minds have heard the cries, "*Crucify him! Crucify him!*" (Luke 23:21). Up the hill to Calvary we have trudged with the King of Kings where he was placed on a cross like any criminal, where he spoke words of compassion for others and asked for forgiveness for his enemies, where he died for our sins. We have sat, dejected, like his followers of old – but not quite, for we have an advantage. We know how the story ends!

It ends with Easter! Yet it is not an ending but a beginning! We race to the tomb with Peter and John (John 20:3-9) and rejoice that "*He is not here; He has risen!*" (Luke 24:6). Like the women who were the first to learn of this most miraculous, most marvelous, most salutary event, we run to tell others. We want to share this Good News. We know it's hard to believe. Like Paul says, "*Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:7-8). And lives for us! "*Do you believe this?*" Jesus asked Martha, and with her we confidently answer, "*I believe that [he] is the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world*" (John 11:24-27).

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57-58).

The attitude of Christian Stewardship recognizes that one's own special talents were given by God. These skills could have been given to someone also. But they were given to you to use for God's purpose. The same attitude of stewardship recognizes time as a loan made by God to his children. Manage time well.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Our Farewell & Anniversary Celebration
will take place**

Sunday May 1st at Noon.

Come celebrate the Special Anniversaries of the St. Paul's staff, rejoice in the Milestone Wedding Anniversaries of our church members, say Thank You and send blessings to our staff who are retiring & beginning new career paths in their lives.

Watch your church bulletin for details and to sign up.





Youth News



❖ **Youth Dinner & Auction!!** The month of April starts off with a great event! We will be hosting our dinner and auction in the gymnasium beginning @ 6pm, April 2. *Youth, please show up on Saturday morning, April 2, from 9am to 11am to help set up; then plan to help serve at the event. Parents, we are also hoping for your assistance the night of the auction.* If you have any questions, please call Kelly Crist: 414-559-9122

❖ **Final NYG Registration Payment Due Now**

The total registration cost per participant is \$395. Some have paid all their registration costs, others have paid \$300 and still owe \$95, and still others have only paid the original \$150 deposit. Please pay all remaining registration costs by the end of this month. If you are unsure, please contact Pastor Bender at 217-779-7985.



❖ **NYG Family Group Meetings**

Our next two family group meeting is coming up this month. Pastor Josh will lead the Bible study and our family groups will be growing closer together as we journey to put Christ first “In All Things” in our faith and life! The next meeting:

Sunday, April 10 @ 2pm *at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

Please plan on being there. At this meeting we will decide on the dates of our final two meetings. Also, if you still owe registration funds, consider giving them to Pastor Bender at this meeting. These pre-gathering meetings are very important for our youth to get the most out of the NYG!



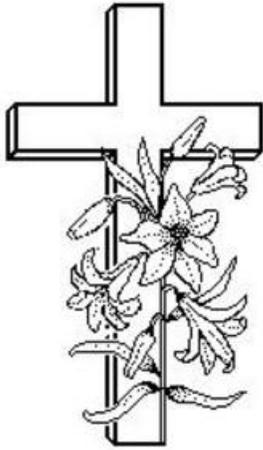
❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

Senior High Bible Study- Sunday 9:15 in the Library **The Book of Daniel**

The Senior High Youth are beginning a Bible Study on the book of Daniel. It is a great book full of wonderful topics including; how is a Christian supposed to live in a non-Christian World, prophecy and end times, and God’s faithfulness. Please join us as we study this wonderful book.



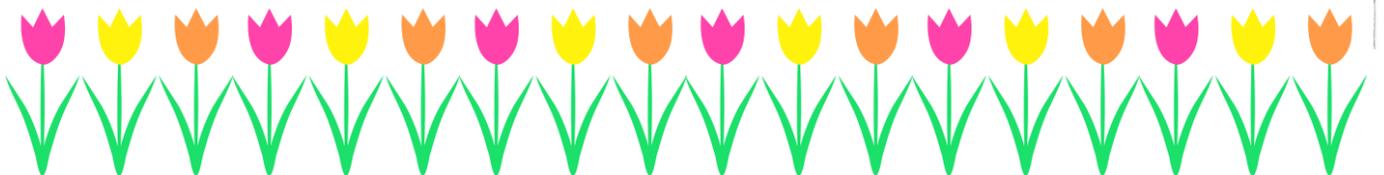
Concordia University Wisconsin Servant’s of Christ Conference Youth Event for Grades 9-12 on Tuesday June 21 at 2:30pm to Wednesday June 22 at 4:30pm. Cost: \$25 and covers lodging & three meals. Adult chaperones are welcome to attend for the same cost of \$25. This conference will ground youth in the grace of their baptism, teach them about the doctrine of vocation, give them information about college and careers, and allow them to take part in breakaway sessions led by CUW professors and other guest speakers. These sessions are designed to strengthen their faith and help them to live as servants of Christ in our challenging world. Next month we will have the registration information for you. Contact Rev Ron Mudge at ronald.mudge@cuw.edu 262-243-4301 with questions.



April 2022 Monthly Planner

Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
						1 Auction Set Up		2 9:00 AM Adult Instruction Class 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Auction	
3 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship		4 9:00 AM Quilts		5 6:00 PM Board of Christian Education 7:00 PM Board of Missional Community @ Sanchez		6 10:00 AM Worship 4:45 PM Lent Dinner 6:00 PM Worship 7:30 PM Praise Band		7 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Finance 6:10 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Board of Stewardship 7:30 PM Choir	
8 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal		9 7:00 AM Mens Bible Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Instruction Class 1:30 PM Wedding 5:00 PM Worship		10 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Youth Meeting at Divine Shepherd Palm Sunday		11 9:00 AM Quilts		12 6:00 PM Council	
13 11:00 AM Widows Lunch		14 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Worship 7:30 PM Choir Maundy Thursday 		15 1:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Worship Good Friday 		16 9:00 AM Adult Instruction Class 5:00 PM Easter Vigil			
17 Easter Worship 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00am 		18 9:00 AM Quilts		19		20 7:30 PM Praise Band		21 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:10 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir	
22 7:00 AM Mens Bible Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Instruction Class 9:00 AM LWML Spring Rally 5:00 PM Worship		23		24 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship		25		26 6:30 PM Elders	
27 9:00 AM Adult Instruction Class 5:00 PM Worship		28 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:10 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation 7:30 PM Choir		29 6:30 PM School Musical		30			

Printed by Calendar Creator for Windows on 3/22/2022



SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



Lent 2022

Greetings from Taiwan! The Ferry Family arrived safely back in Taiwan in early February, and was immediately put into two weeks of quarantine. We had seven COVID tests in total over three weeks, but received a clean bill of health and have resumed normal life here. We are glad to be home and settled back in. Here are some glimpses of life since we departed the United States after our incredible months-long visit:



Above: Caylee gets used to wearing a mask on the bus ride out of Wisconsin. No exceptions, even for babies!



Above: Caleb and Caitlin get back to work in Catechesis with Daddy in his office.



Below: Gathering with church partners in Taipei (and with LCMS missionary Michael Paul) to celebrate the new Book of Concord in Chinese!

Left: The Ferry kids celebrate being back in Chiayi by playing at the baseball park across the street.

Below: Charlotte and Chloe resume Chinese class with Teacher.





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Re-integration to life in Taiwan after our time in the USA recently.*
- *Cheryl and the kids as they resume Chinese classes and homeschooling.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Safe travels back to Taiwan, where our Lord has placed us through you, His church.*
- *The preservation of our home here during our many months away.*
- *Our incredible network of partners who provide such gracious and generous resources.*

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit our newsletter web page: ferrys.asia/newsletter



Ferry Family Update



Cassandra turned 8 years old during our quarantine time in February. Despite the fact that we were separated and locked-in, she still made the most of the special day. Here she poses with the “cake” assembled by sisters Chloe and Carissa, from the snacks and crackers in the room. Can you see the “8” they made from the cookies?

Momma Cheryl also had a birthday during our quarantine days. The girls insisted on “making” her a cake out of the snacks, just like they did for Cassie. Can you see the number that indicates her age?



Charlotte’s birthday was our third special day during quarantine. But at least hers was during our days locked-in at home just before it ended. Charlotte turned four years old, and wanted a doggie on her cake. Momma was more than happy to make it now that we were back in our own kitchen.



To support the LCMS through the work of The Ferry Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Ferry Family.” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/ferry.

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