

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 63 — Number 04
April 2024 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

April 2024

“Consider the **lilies** how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?”

--- Luke 12: 27 & 28

“April showers bring May flowers...”

In the year 1,157 A.D. an Englishman by the name of Thomas Tusser wrote a few simple lines in the form of a poem that communicated the (directly above) bold-faced print. As an ode of sorts to Springtime Tusser told in beautiful verse the coming reality of the gradual change of the climate in the form of Spring flowers. England has long had weather patterns that make rain and fog a daily and accepted part of everyday life. Umbrellas are a staple of traditional English garb, being always in hand or nearby for when the sky opens up and blesses the ground with heavenly moisture. The poem was also a gently worded verse of sympathy that spoke to the human condition of the value of waiting and getting through tough times knowing better times are coming. Such might be one of the origins of the English emotional staple of keeping the “stiff

upper lip.”

The Bible also occasionally mentions the beauty and majesty of flowers in verses from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) and the New Testament in the words of Jesus. Printed above, from Luke chapter 12, we see an excerpt from a longer conversation Jesus is having with his disciples (and, thus, also us) about the great waste of time that is worrying or being anxious. “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life...” we read in verse 22. “Who of you, by worrying, can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?” (vs. 25 & 26.) Notice how Jesus refers to the extending of our worldly life as a “very little thing.” When was the last time we put the reality of our physical life into such a stark moment of realization? Jesus continually looks to eternal life as the life that has the most value. Why are you worrying and scrabbling for that which is passing so quickly? Such is the challenge God sends our way, through Jesus Christ, who has the reigns of control firmly in grasp, and who reminds us that even though the lilies are so utterly beautiful today, tomorrow they are thrown into the fire. Surely, if he loves and keeps them so well, as transient as they are, will he not also care and keep us, all the more, “O ye of little faith!” (vs. 28b.)

While life may be presenting us with showers right now, while we might be suffering and having to endure any number of the indignities that life sends our way right now, the funny little poem by Mr. Tusser, and the majestic words of Christ remind us that there are better times ahead, whether in this world or in the next.

“April showers bring May flowers.” May we enjoy the day God has blessed us with today, if it is possible, and may we always keep our hearts and minds on tomorrow which has been won for us through the majesty, power and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior.

April 1st marked my 20th anniversary as organist, and that's no April Fool's joke! Prior to that, I was one of the monthly "Alternate Organists" along with Alice Lopez and several others who have moved on to other callings. Every time I sit at the organ, I'm in heaven. We have one of the largest organs in the area, and I'm honored to have been able to recommend it's acquisition in 2007. Johann Sebastian Bach was not only a great musician, organist, composer, and arranger, he was also a good Lutheran, and he once called the organ the "KING of instruments" because of it's power and versatility. MANY churches today have given up on organ music, and have gone the way of "Praise Bands", pianos, keyboards, or simply "canned" recorded music. It's sad to think that organists today are an "endangered species", and I wonder how many years it will be until most churches, including ours, will be unable to find musicians willing to worship God with the beautiful music that only an organ can supply.

WILDT

"No pre-recorded music in this church.
It's all 100% organ!"

The Easter celebration continues...

Well, we spent our 40 days (not including Sundays) in the Lenten Season, preparing us for Holy Week and Easter. So, what happens now? Well, we don't just pack up the plastic Easter Eggs and say "So long...see you next year." The Easter celebration continues for 50 days, terminating on Pentecost, which this year is May 19th.

We number the Sundays as the nth Sunday OF Easter (not the nth Sunday AFTER Easter) because the celebration is meant to be on-going. Christ is RISEN! He is RISEN INDEED. We say that every year, and during the Sundays leading up to Pentecost, our lessons will concentrate not on the resurrection, but how we respond to it! We'll be reminded who Jesus is, what he did, and, most importantly, what he expects US to do.

Musically, we're back to a full musical liturgy, with a weekly Hymn of Praise, and songs that proclaim "Alleluia". We'll sing songs of the resurrection and share the peace of Christ with those around us in church.

The solemnity of Lent is over...CHRIST IS RISEN! Let us be GLAD and celebrate!

Lenten Supper Offerings yield Good Gifts.

THANKS to all who donated special offerings at the Lenten Suppers. This year we collected \$285, which has been sent to the ELCA "Good Gifts" outreach allowing us to fund: 2 goats, 2 Honey Bee hives, 20 chicks, 2 roosters, 2 fruit tree-seedlings, 1 set of seeds and gardening tools, mosquito netting and \$5 to use as needed. These donations will go to help raise people out of poverty and sickness in 3rd world countries, putting into action our ELCA call: "God's Work, Our Hands".

Until Next Month...

As we deal with the often endless days of rain in April, remember God's promise:

...he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil;

Deuteronomy 11:14 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

**3 years old-PreK
Kindergarten-3rd grade
4th grade
Middle School**

**Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith
Becky & Shannon Sanders
Patti Riley
Fred Rosenbohm**

Starting Sunday, February 18th and throughout the late winter/spring months, our lessons will follow the Year B Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermons.

**April 7th
April 14th
April 21st
April 28th
May 5th
May 12th
May 19th
May 26th**

**Doubting Thomas
The Great Commission
The Good Shepherd
Philip and the Ethiopian
The Holy Spirit Came Down
Matthias the Apostle
The Holy Spirit
Isaiah's Call**

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

**John Wetterauer
christian.reichert@att.net
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell**

Homebound List (as of April 01, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Russ & Jane Look	Hearts Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lenten Offerings: The offerings that were collected during the Lenten suppers were as follows: Wednesday 02/22: \$ 55.00, 02/28: \$ 44.00, 03/06: \$ 45.00, 03/13: \$ 64.00, 03/20: \$ 77.00 for a total of \$285.00. The money was sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program to support assistance to help farmers become self-sufficient in 3rd world countries. The following was purchased with the money: 2 Chicks, 2 Goats, 2 Honey-bees, 2 Fruit-tree seedlings, 2 Mosquito nets, 2 Roosters, 1 Seeds and Gardening tools and 1 Additional Gift.

Bible Study: Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue with 1 Thessalonians on April 10 and April 24. All are welcome! Jane Rosenbohm (309) 645-9009

Thank You: The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone for purchasing memorial Easter lilies. Please feel free to take yours home after the 10:30 service today.

Spring Cleaning: Come join us on Saturday, April 6th from 9-12 to do some much needed church clean-up, both inside and outside. If it should rain, we will meet the following Saturday, April 13th from 9-12.

Greeters Needed: We are in need of greeters for both services. This is an easy rewarding service you can provide to St. John "Community". If you can arrive 15 minutes early, smile, say "welcome" and hand out a bulletin you qualify! Sign up sheets are at the back of church beside greeters. If you have questions contact Shirley Schmitt (309) 232-9484.

New Pew Bibles: The new pew Bibles are in place. The council is asking for donations to help cover the cost of \$12 per Bible. If you'd like to make a donation to help with the expense, please put your check or cash in an envelope and clearly mark it PEW BIBLES.

Thank You

2024 Easter Lilies

DONOR

Carol Alwood & Family

Don & Pepper Bauer

Joe & Janice Baumgardner

Ken & Sheryl Bruninga & Family (2)

Wilma Bruninga & Family

Bill & Cheryl Button

Charles & Pam Ciaccio

Shirley Cramer & Family

Dee Garske

John & Danette Grafelman

Pat, Danette & Family

Marilyn Hartseil

Bob & Pat Janssen

Pastor Michael & Christina Jones

Jo Ann Lambie

Betty A Lyons

Terry & Betty Marlin

IN LOVING MEMORY/IN HONOR OF:

David

**Moms, Grandmas, Aunts & Eric who taught us to appreciate
the beauty of God's creation**

Loved Ones

**Our daughter, Brenna Kay
Our parents, John & Ann Bruninga
Ed & Susanne Taylor**

Wally Bruninga

Loved Ones

Ciaccio Family

**Clarence & Clarence Cramer Jr.
Parents
Sisters: Carrie, Marguerite, Kathy,
Minnie & Rosie**

Don

Ruth Grafelman (Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma)

Ruby Brodbeck (Mom, Grandma & Great Grandma)

Aunt Ida Hartseil

Loved Ones

**Otto & Hedwig Hartleib
(Parents of Christina Jones)**

Pete, Eric, Mom & Dad

Loved Ones

Henry & Mabel Campen

DONOR**Pat & Sally McGrew****William & Jodi Miller (2)****Sue Moore & Family****Bonnie Phelps****Jim & Kathy Rindfleisch****Jack & Sue Rosenak****John, Jane & Jessica Rosenbohm****Dan & Deb Sammis****Dave & Teri Sammis****Tim & LaVonne Sammis****Becky & Shannon Sanders****Schaer Family****Shirley Schmitt****Denny & Elvessa Severt****Roger & Elaine Shafer****Diane Shields****Betty Smith****Maurice & Carol Super****Lisa & Ray Suydam****IN LOVING MEMORY/IN HONOR OF:****Our Parents****Ed & Grace McCormick****Don E. Wiesenhofer****Don M. Wiesenhofer****Jim****Tom****The death & resurrection
of Jesus Christ****Harry & Alberta Campen****Loved Ones****Tyler Inboden****Harold, Helen & Scott Frerichs****Loved Ones****Loved Ones****Loved Ones****Parents & Grandparents****William & Berniece Zilch****Parents****Loved Ones****Loved Ones****Loved Ones****Mom & Dad****Grace Hanley****Loved Ones****All Our Loved Ones**

DONOR

Eleanor Wetterauer

John Wetterauer (2)

Karen Whitby &
Denny Dougherty

Karen & Ernie Williams

DONOR

Curt & Patty Caudill

IN LOVING MEMORY/IN HONOR OF:

Bob

Robert Wetterauer (father)

Grandparents:

Ludwig & Mathilda Wetterauer

Christian & Rosa Reichert

Tom Whitby

Barb & Jeffy Dougherty

Loved Ones

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Our new grandson Cooper D. Caudill

St. John Lutheran Church
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(309) 697-1440



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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, April 17th at 12:00 noon.

Sunday morning Service - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Choir practice on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 9:00am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.