



MARK TIMES

April 1, 2018 + The Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day



From Your Presiding Bishop...

It all started with such promise: the angel announcing to Mary that her child would be called Son of the Most High; her conviction that this child would be the embodiment of God's promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**" It was over. The world hadn't changed. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, "You fool."

This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the **wisdom of the world**. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that the world is ours. In the face of this & all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

This beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of both the psalmist and our Lord, but there is more going on here. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember & turn to the Lord; ...future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the **wisdom of God**. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

This year, Easter falls on April 1. We have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We say, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title. – *Bishop Elizabeth Eaton*

Easter Thank You!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this Holy Week so beautiful and meaningful! From those who cleaned and decorated, to those who donated flowers (be sure to take them with you after worship), to those who assisted in worship leadership, and to those who served in our choirs and as musicians! Because of you this day is positively **radiant!**



First Communion Classes

If you have a child in Kindergarten or higher and think they may be ready to receive Holy Communion, please talk to Pastor Brian. He will lead First Communion classes after Sunday School on **April 15, 22, and 29**, with **First Communion on May 6**. **Parent participation is strongly encouraged!**



SHINE Worship on Saturday

Join us **NEXT Saturday, April 7** at **6:00PM** for less-formal worship with contemporary Christian music in the **chapel**. **Pastor Jill Seagle** will be our guest presider.



Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be unavailable from next **Thursday afternoon, April 5** through **Wednesday, April 11** for vacation and the Liturgical Institute in Valparaiso, Indiana. **Pastor Mark Sidney (530-5142)** will be on call in case of pastoral emergency, and **Pastor Karen Scherer** (recently retired from Unity in Bel-Nor) will be our guest preacher & presider next Sunday.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, 4/2	2:00PM	Fiber Arts @Westfield Manor
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell Choir
	8:00PM	Voice Choir
Friday-Sunday		<i>Pastor on vacation</i>
Sunday, 4/8	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & fellowship
		No Adult Forum
	10:30AM	Sunday School
Sunday-Wednesday		<i>Pastor at Liturgical Institute</i>

Offerings for March 25, 2018

Sunday worship attendance:	82
General Fund Donations	\$3,631.48
Easter Flowers	\$120
Food Pantry	\$20

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
3/4-3/10	\$3,881	\$383.66	\$3,497.34
3/11-3/17	\$2,587	\$181.61	\$2,405.39
3/18-3/24	\$3,119	\$617.67	\$2,501.33
3/25-3/31	\$3,631.48	\$13,299.56	-\$9,668.08
YTD	\$36,739.19	\$43,904.33	-\$7,165.14

About that New Year's Promise

If you had a resolution to lose weight in 2018, how's that going? If you need some support and accountability, along with some nutritional guidance and encouragement, consider joining TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly). TOPS meets at Trinity United Church of Christ, 47 N Douglas in Belleville on Monday nights. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 and the meeting begins at 6:30. Come visit for free and see what it's all about! *What have you got to lose?*



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Sunday, April 8, 2018

LESSONS:

Acts 4:32-35
 Psalm 133
 1 John 1:1-2:2
 John 20:19-31

LOOKING AHEAD

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Karen Scherer
Assisting Minister: Greg Guenther
Acolyte: Grace Moeller
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp
Chalice Bearer: Barb Wurdinger
Lector: Jim Montgomery
Ushers: Rex Rothgangel & Jim Montgomery

Upcoming Adult Education

Sunday, April 1 & 8: No Adult Forum
Wednesday, April 11: **St. Mark Table Talk** led by the Rev. Dr. John Lottes: *Resurrection Parallels*
Sunday, April 15: *The Lost Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles*, by Pastor Brian
Sunday, April 22: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Small Detergents for the Food Pantry

Our April spotlight items for the food pantry are **SMALL bottles of laundry detergent (10oz. bottles are preferred, as they are easy for our patrons to carry)**. Drop them in the church Welcome Area or in the office during the day.



Got Old Luggage to Get Rid Of?

"Heroes That Care," a group of local veterans, is collecting used luggage and backpacks in good condition to give to Children and Family Services. Foster children, if they don't happen to have any luggage, are given two trash bags to put their stuff in. This group wants to make sure as many foster children as possible have actual luggage or backpacks. Items can be dropped off at the Belleville Khoury League (411 W. Monroe St.) on **Wednesday, April 11 between 6-8PM.**

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