



CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green Bay, Wisconsin

Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen, Pastor

Email: pastorspvk@christthekinggb.org

On the web: www.christthekinggb.org

1700 Cardinal Ln, 54313

Phone: 920-434-6010

Like & Follow: www.facebook.com/christthekinghoward

OUR MISSION: *Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.*

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Where Was Thomas? *by Pastor Piet Van Kampen*

[A]s newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.—1 Peter 2:2-3

He missed it! Peter was there. James and John were there. All the other disciples were there. But not Thomas! On the first day of the week, in the upper room, Jesus' disciples had gathered together. But not Thomas! As his fellow disciples met Sunday night, Thomas was conspicuously absent.

Why was Thomas missing? It's possible that Thomas was busy. But there was another more likely explanation. When the disciples finally caught up with Thomas and told him that they had seen the Lord, Thomas said, "Unless I see in His hands the prints of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Thomas wasn't just wrestling with doubts; he was refusing to believe!

And that's probably why Thomas wasn't there in the upper room. Why would he want to gather with people who were deluding themselves into believing that Jesus was possibly still alive? Thomas chose to cut himself off from the Easter message that the women had brought. He chose to cut himself off from his friends who were entertaining thoughts of believing it. In his mind it was time to accept reality and move on. Jesus was dead; He wasn't coming back.



Thomas was in a bad place in terms of his spiritual life and his faith. And the result? When the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples that night and greeted them with a hearty, "Peace be with you!", Thomas missed it. He missed getting to see the risen Jesus, to hear His voice. He missed out on the comfort and joy of knowing that Jesus was alive.

Have you ever been in a bad place like Thomas was? Sometimes it happens and it's not even intentional! Churches everywhere are spotting the same thing in the past few months; people who weren't coming to worship because of COVID-19 aren't even watching online anymore. They've just gotten out of the habit. A few weeks of missing church becomes several months of skipping church. You wind up cut off from your brothers and sisters in Christ and lose your thirst for "the pure milk of the word". It can happen to anyone.

And the worst part is what—or, namely, Who—you're missing out on: seeing the risen Jesus. Hearing His voice. Growing in His grace. Receiving the peace that only He can give.

Decades after the first Easter, Peter would say, "[A]s newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3). The pure milk of God's Word enables us to grow! It strengthens us in our faith. It builds us up to withstand the storms of this life, and to stand against the temptations of the devil, the sinful world and our own human flesh. That's because the pure Word of God gives us the peace that can only be found in the risen Jesus. This is why the pure milk of God's Word is meant to be desired—hungered and thirsted for with the single-minded focus of a hungry newborn baby!

It's funny, the way the human body works. If you go without eating and drinking for a long time, eventually your body stops sending the signal that it's thirsty. It's the same

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News & Notes

with our own hearts of faith. It's possible to lose our thirst for the Gospel. If you've lost your thirst for that pure milk of God's Word, it's time to get it back again. It's time to once again taste that the Lord is gracious, as Peter says. To rejoin your brothers and sisters in Christ in hearing the Word of the Lord.

Thomas was in a bad place. But his friends found him and made sure he was in the upper room with them a week later. And the risen Jesus didn't disappoint. He appeared that night to all the disciples—even Thomas. Thomas got to touch the nail marks on Jesus' hands, and see the wound in Jesus' side. In humble, repentant joy Thomas cried out, "My Lord and my God!" He realized what he missed. He "tasted that the Lord is gracious"—and found his thirst restored.

In this Easter season, may we continually desire the pure milk of God's Word—the pure milk of our salvation in the risen Jesus—having tasted that the Lord is gracious! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

—Pastor Van Kampen

MINUTES—SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL & VOTERS MEETING

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Vice President Dr. Rod Meves.

Pastor Van Kampen opened the meeting with prayer.

Voting members present:

- Dennis Barlament
- Ben Brodhagen
- Brian Busse
- Dave Diestler
- John Greenwood
- Chuck Hartwig
- Paul Kirchner
- Dan Lindquist
- Rod Meves
- Rick Schnese
- Andrew Van Kampen
- James Van Kampen
- Pastor Van Kampen

The meeting was led by Trustee Brian Busse. A handout was given to members. The Trustees and President of the congregation are seeking voter's approval to apply for a forgivable loan through the Federal Government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that is being offered to small businesses and non-profits. The loan can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits.

In our case, Pastor's salary, housing, health insurance, pension and life insurance are qualifying expenses. We are able to apply for a loan of 2.5 times the average monthly

expenditures for those expenses in 2020. This amounts to \$18,043. The deadline to apply for this loan is March 31, 2021. We would apply through Associated Bank.

If the loan is approved, \$18,043 would be deposited in the checking account and we would document payroll expenses until we have spent \$18,043. If the loan is not forgiven, we will return \$18,043. If the loan is forgiven, we would be able to take offering money that would normally have been used for payroll expenses and move to an account for the organ fund.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to apply for the loan.

Discussion was on the need for the loan. Our current organ is no longer manufactured and parts are difficult to get. We have used parts from our old organ to repair the donated organ. A new organ costs between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

Voting members voted 8 ayes and 3 nays. (VP Meves requested that his vote be registered as "nay".)

The application will be submitted to Associated Bank.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara K Schnese
Recording Secretary

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to Harmen Van Kampen, who was confirmed on Sunday, March 28. May the Lord bless and keep Harmen in the Christian faith, fed and nourished with the good news of the risen Savior!

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Church Council will meet Sunday, April 11, after Bible Class. Congregational and Voters Meetings are set for Sunday, April 18, after the worship service. Quarterly reports are due in the church office by Friday, April 9 (preferably electronically). Thank you!

April Birthdays!

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Charles Hartwig | 17 Helen Brodhagen |
| 4 Brian Busse | 19 Andrew Van Kampen |
| 5 James Van Kampen | 21 Sandra Gillaume |
| 10 Ellen Bergner | 21 Ardis Junco |
| 14 Jill Brown | |



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Phone: 920-434-6010
Office E-mail: ckluth@new.rr.com
Pastor Email: pastorspxk@christthekinggb.org
Website: www.christthekinggb.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/christthekingforward



ALTAR GUILD FOR APRIL:
Sandra Guillaume & Janet Heuser

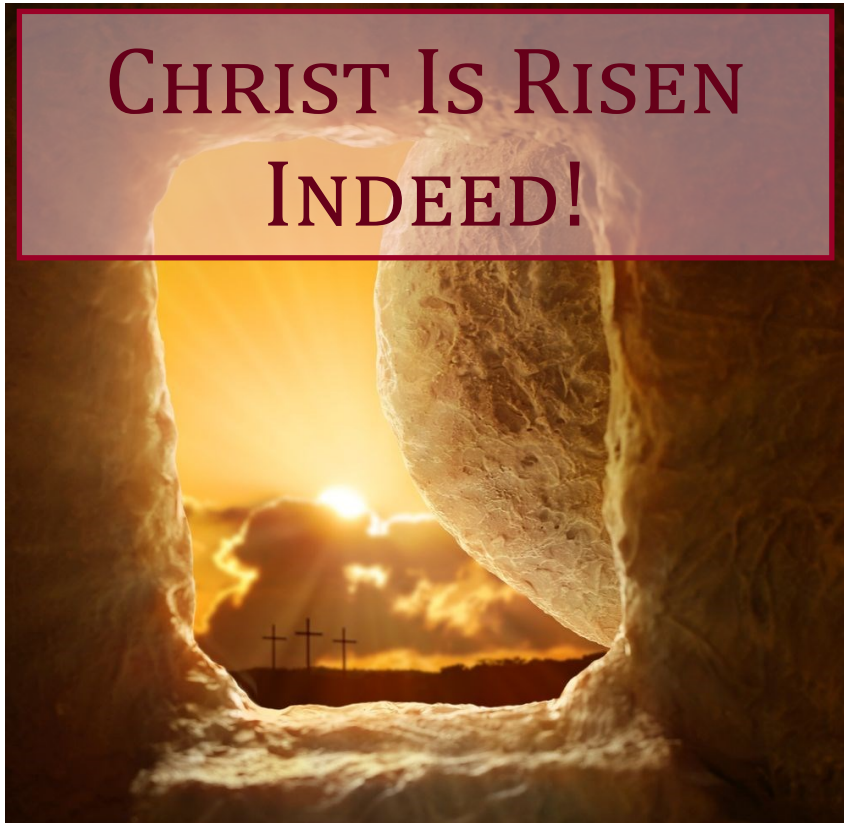
YEAR AT A GLANCE

- 4/1 - Maundy Thursday
- 4/2 - Good Friday
- 4/4 - Easter Sunday
- 4/18 - 1st Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings
- 6/20 - Fathers' Day/Synod Sunday
- 6/21-24 - Annual Convention of the ELS
- 7/11 - 2nd Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings
- 7/29-8/1 - ELS LYA Youth Rally
- 9/12 - Rally for Christian Education (First Day of Sun. School & Bible Class)
- 10/6-8 - ELS General Pastoral Conference
- 10/31 - Reformation Day & Trunk or Treat
- 11/24 - Thanksgiving Eve Service
- 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 - Midweek Advent Services
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25 - Christmas Day Festival Service
- 12/31 - New Year's Eve Service

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:00 Easter Festival Service (Comm.) USHERS: Group 4	5 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service (w/Holy Comm.)	6 8:00 - 5:30 Lifeline Screening	7 4:00 Emerald Bay	8 Maundy Thursday	9 Good Friday	10
<i>The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter</i>						
11 9:00 Divine Service 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour 11:30 Church Council Meeting USHERS: Group 1	12 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service	13 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class 4:00 Brookview Meadows Service	14 4:00 Emerald Bay	15	16	17
18 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 1st Quarter Cong. & Voters Meetings USHERS: Group 2	19 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service (w/Holy Comm.)	20 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class	21 4:00 Emerald Bay	22 9:00 ELS Exp. Review Comm.	23	24 11:30 Christian Funeral for Elmer Beimborn
25 9:00 Divine Service (Good Shepherd Sunday) 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour USHERS: Group 3	26 4:00 Conf. Class 6:30 Divine Service	27 9:00 Tuesday Bible Class 4:00 Brookview Meadows Service	28 4:00 Emerald Bay	29	30	5/1

CHRIST IS RISEN
INDEED!



Happy
and
Blessed
Easter!