



April 2021

Mt. Calvary Messenger
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
1372 W. Fremont Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
309 342-7083



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Worship 6pm	2 Good Friday Worship 6pm	3
4 Easter Sunday Worship 7am & 10am Breakfast 8:15-9:45am	5	6	7 Midweek 4:00pm	8 LWML 1pm	9	10
11 Worship 8am & 10:30am Bible Class/ Sunday School 9:15am Elder's Meeting 11:45am	12	13 Council 6pm	14 Midweek 4:00pm	15	16	17
18 Worship 8am & 10:30am Bible Class/ Sunday School 9:15am Voter's Meeting 11:45am	19	20	21 Midweek 4:00pm	22	23	24
25 Worship 8am & 10:30am Bible Class/ Sunday School 9:15am	26	27 Hats of Love 3pm	28 Midweek 4:00pm	29	30	

Happy Birthday

1- Heidi Baughman
 8- Jonathan Knussman
 9- Jennifer Baughman
 9- Vickie Stine
 9- Kyle Engel
 10- Theresa Clark
 13-Brent Bennett
 13-Ava Kersh
 13-Isabel Kersh
 16-Madelyn Bird
 19-Seeley Koch
 21-Bob Donley
 23-Derek Lescallett
 27- Brad DeWolfe

1-Julie & Kevir Donnelly
 7-Jason & Sherry Kersh
 12-Randall & Kim Noe
 15-Ralph & Merrily Sargent
 17-Tim & Janet Laugesen

Happy
 Anniversary

Attendance for the month of March

Date	Worship	Communion
3/3	45	—
3/7	82	68
3/10	52	—
3/14	67	55
3/17	47	—
3/21	62	52
3/24	45	—
3/28		

Baptism Birthdays

4-1 Bev Donley
 4-1 Chance Donley
 4-2 Richard Stine
 4-2 Brittany Kane
 4-3 Julian Henry
 4-7 Arlene Hazlett
 4-10 LeRoy Shoop
 4-11 Ivan Clark
 4-12 Megan Sperry
 4-12 Andrew Knussman
 4-12 Les Lindsey
 4-15 Shelly Heimann
 4-15 Dee Lipe
 4-19 Melanie Sommerer
 4-23 Derek Lescallett
 4-25 Theresa Clark
 4-25 Jonathan Knussman
 4-28 Jennifer Baughman

In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett	Debra Hughes
Kim Noe	Missy Montgomery	Theresa Clark
Walter Walker	Fern Harding	Chris Clark
Julie Jordan-Brandt	Janalee Gutierrez	Guy Hood
Rose Morris	Bev Donley	William Burkhardt
Louis Linnenburger	Anita Reinertsen	Mina Montgomery
Arlene Hazlett		

Allie Clark (family of Theresa Clark)- fighting cancer
 Lorren- upcoming back surgery
 Katherine- Brad DeWolfe's mother, at a Peoria hospital

Others:

Marc, Lori, Leah & Aaron Kugler & family at the passing of
 Lori's brother, Glenn

Lisa Corps- fostering a little girl
 Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission
 Sgt Daniel Colombo- stationed in Fort Collins, CO
 SPC Douglas Havens- stationed at Fort Drum, NY
 Cpl Kaleb Karssen- stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA
 Our nation, our world, our leaders, our neighbors
 Our healthcare workers: Tom, Mark, Jared, Gabby, Evelyn,
 Diane, Kathy, Shelly, Deb, Lori, Becca

Whoever believes and is
 baptized will be saved.
 Mark 16:16a



Join us for our Holy Week and Easter Services as we rejoice in Christ' victory over death!

Palm Sunday	8:00am	Worship Service
	9:15am	Sunday School and Bible Class
	10:30am	Worship Service
Maundy Thursday	6:00pm	Worship Service with communion
Good Friday	6:00pm	Worship Service
Easter Sunday	7:00am	Worship Service
	8:30am	Easter Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt
	10:00am	Worship Service

Our Easter Flowers this year were given by:

- Mike & Kayla Bird– In Thanksgiving for Family
- Randy & Kim Noe– In Celebration of our Anniversary
- Robert & Laura Nichols– In Thanksgiving for our family
- Julie Jordan-Brandt– To the Glory of God
- Julie Jordan-Brandt– In Celebration of God’s Love
- C.J. Carlson– To the Glory of God
- Sharon Gonzalez– To the Glory of God
- Mina Montgomery– In Loving Memory of Gene Montgomery
- JoAnn Folger– In Loving Memory of Gene Brackett and Terry Folger
- Theresa Clark– In Celebration of life
- Tim & Janet Laugesen– In Thanksgiving for our families
- Raoul & Anita Reinertsen– To the Glory of God



LWML

Will meet on Thursday, April 8th at 1 pm.
Topic will be presented by Lori and hostess will be Leah.
Roll call is Goats. Guests are always welcome!

Preschool News

Preschool continues to go very well! We have 27 students who are thankful for Jesus, their school, their teachers and friends. Registration is ongoing and classes are filling up quickly. We are hoping for a more “normal” school year in 2021-2022, though students and staff have done a wonderful job this year with our many changes.

There will be no school April 2nd (Good Friday) and April 5th (Easter Monday). We will be doing assessments in April to let parents know how their children are doing. Our last day of school will be Tuesday, May 25th.

Please save used ink cartridges for us. Staples is once again giving us \$2 per cartridge. Thank you for your support for the PTO’s Little Caesar Fundraiser. Over \$1,000 was earned! Thank you to Derek and Leah for their continued work on our fire doors! The doors have arrived and are being installed! Many, many thanks to our church members who donated towards our fire marshal improvements. Have a blessed Easter! Alleluia!

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?”



Hats of Love will meet on Tuesday, April 27th at 3:00pm.
Please bring any items that you have completed! Thank you for your help and support as we share God’s love with our community!

"If Christ has not been raised from the dead, our teaching is in vain.(1 Cor. 15:14)"

Few scholars deny Jesus of Nazareth walked on the earth nearly 2000 years ago, that He was a successful teacher and that He was put to death as a revolutionary figure. Many believe He was too naïve to work within the spiritual and political framework of His day, others that he represented a threat to Rome's power in occupied Judea. But beyond that, few secular scholars believe that Jesus rose from the dead. The real, true, bodily resurrection of Jesus has been called the linchpin of Christianity.

We can't prove the resurrection to someone who doesn't want to believe, but there are compelling reasons to accept the testimony of Scripture. It's OK to use our head and weigh the evidence. Jesus said, *"You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free...Love the Lord your God...with all your mind."* What does the evidence say? It can't be treated at length here, but many excellent books have been written on the subject and deserve attention. (Paul Maier's book, *The First Easter*, was used for this article and is found in the library. Briefly summarized here.)

On the reliability of the Gospel records... If the authors were lying, would they have described themselves as hiding out in fear while the women went to find the empty tomb? More likely if they were inventing a story, they would portray themselves as heroic. Women were considered unreliable witnesses and were unable to testify in court in those days. If they wanted to fabricate the resurrection story, would they have chosen women to find and report the empty tomb? The apostolic witness would form the foundation of the Church until the Gospels were later collected. If the resurrection never happened and the disciples were perpetrating a hoax, would they have allowed their own writings to undermine their reputation. They exude credibility, never flinching to report things that were very unflattering for themselves. The only thing that could describe the "warts and all" picture of the disciples we get in the Gospels is that they were telling it how it was.

If the Jews wished to squelch the rumor of the resurrection, they could have said the body was still there. Instead, they acknowledged its disappearance with a theft story – passed on by generations of Jewish teachers in early writings. (This is evidence against one's interest.) While early Jewish historians say that Christ's body was stolen, they all agree the tomb was empty. Christ body wasn't produced to deny the claims. Would the disciples have all (except John, so far as we know) become martyrs dying horrible deaths for a cause they **knew** to be a lie? Would cowardly ex-fisherman be emboldened to change the world with their preaching if it was false and **they knew it was false**? Of course not! How are we to account for Paul's radical transformation from persecutor to apostle apart from seeing the Living Savior? The only thing that explains the transformed lives is a genuine encounter with the risen Christ.

Archaeologists found a marble inscription in *Nazareth* dating to the first half of the first century which prescribes death for grave robbers. All previous Roman edicts found on tombs prescribe only a large fine. One wonders what made the penalty be increased and in the region of Nazareth. (Date can't be narrowed more, because scholars are unsure which "Caesar" issued the edict.)

Paul's transformation has already been noted, but what of the surprising change of Jesus' skeptical brother who became a leader in His brother's cause after His death? What would change the disappointed brother, perhaps a resurrection appearance described in 1Cor.15?

If the disciples were perpetuating a hoax would they have dared to start it from Jerusalem where it could most easily have been squelched? If Jesus didn't bodily rise, Jerusalem was the one place where it would be impossible to have started the Church. If you're going to spread a lie, you don't start it where everyone could shout you down. The only thing that could account for the quick launch of the Church after Pentecost (aside from the Holy Spirit!) is that no one could disprove the claim that Jesus had risen – and many could substantiate it – more than 500 people saw Christ alive after the resurrection! (1Cor.15)

The Jews hold very strongly the observance of Sabbath worship. Yet, Christianity a supposed "Jewish sect", from the very beginning worshipped on Sunday not Saturday. What could have accounted for such rapid and universally accepted change, aside from a resurrection? (Try passing that-or anything that has to do with worship-at church council, if you don't believe that's a big piece of evidence.)

Paul lists a large list of witnesses (500+) to the risen Christ in 1 Cor. 15 (cf. Gospels). Each of these would have been called upon to confirm or deny the testimony. Could such a large conspiracy have ever withstood the interrogation, persecution, and eventually horrible deaths that most endured? People will die for lies (example Islamic suicide bombers), but no one will die for what they know to be a lie. IOW's... The disciples knew they had seen Jesus alive!

There are many compelling reasons to accept the truth of Christ's resurrection. This only scratches the surface. The power of His Word and the testimony of 20 centuries and millions of lives continue to testify powerfully to the resurrection of Christ. We have a sure and certain hope that death is not the end.

"Because Jesus lives, you will live also! Where O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting?"

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Soli Deo Gloria! Pastor Steve Sommerer