



# Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 34 No. 4

April 2021

*From the  
Pastor*



## **LOOKING TO THE ULTIMATE VICTORY...WHAT WILL BE YOUR SONG?**

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. <sup>4</sup>"Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. <sup>6</sup>Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, LORD, shatters the enemy. <sup>7</sup>In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. <sup>8</sup>At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. <sup>9</sup>The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' <sup>10</sup>You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

<sup>11</sup>"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? <sup>12</sup>You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

<sup>13</sup>"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

<sup>14</sup>The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. <sup>15</sup>Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. <sup>16</sup>Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. <sup>17</sup>You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. <sup>18</sup>The LORD will reign forever and ever."

<sup>19</sup>For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. <sup>20</sup>Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea." Exodus 15:1-21

The words above are one of several Old Testament Readings for Easter Sunrise. The songs celebrate God's victory over Pharaoh's elite military at the Red Sea. Imagine, certain death was awaiting those who had just exited Egypt – the land of slavery, the land of death.

Moses and Miriam lifted up song praising God for His act of "salvation". By God's mighty breath, the Red Sea drowned the enemy and secured their freedom. New life was theirs. What a wonderful act to be remembered in song.

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We have now passed the first anniversary of the onset of COVID-19. Freedom became limited. Many events including Easter were not able to be celebrated in person. Sadly, many died of this disease, including two members of our congregation. Also, many of our members contracted COVID-19, but by the grace of God, overcame.

This year we are able to celebrate Easter. It would seem that by the grace of God, the disease is being addressed. Perhaps not too long from now, we will be able to have more freedom and perhaps no longer wear the dreaded mask. Perhaps by God's grace as many are vaccinated, COVID-19 will be tamed and fewer will get the disease, fewer may die. (Remember that God uses science and medication to bring healing,)

So, what will be our song? How will we celebrate God's goodness in overcoming this disease?

Easter is going to be especially sweet this year. We will be able to worship in person in the House of the Lord! We will be able to hear of the victory that has been given to us in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This victory comes to us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Just as water was used by God to destroy Pharaoh's elite, water drowns Satan and we become new creatures in Christ.

Just as God's people had to wander in the wilderness, so we as God's children still must wander in this life here on this earth. God's people were headed for the promised land; so, we, too, are headed for the Promised Land. Though absolute victory was not enjoyed in this life, Absolute Victory will be celebrated in eternity.

Consider these words, another passage that finds itself in the lectionary for Easter Sunday...

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. I Corinthians 15:50-58

We have much to celebrate! We can move forward, even with COVID-19 still around; laboring for the Lord, because we know of the victory Jesus' resurrection has brought to us! What is your song to celebrate? Mine is, "I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives".

To God be the glory!

*Pastor Schroeder*

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

**Number of Baptized Souls: 455 Number of Confirmed Souls: 382 Number of Families: 235**



## Confirming the Faith

We've now made our way through the 2021 Lenten season, and are about to begin our Eastertide, the time between Easter Saturday, and Pentecost, where we will move into the "Season of the Church." During this time, we are finishing up our Confirmation courses for the year, and soon we will see & hear the Confirmation vows of those in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade who have completed our Confirmation program.

As such, I thought it would be nice to take a look at Confirmation, and why it is so vastly important to Christian Growth.

Now, if you do an in-depth study of Scripture, you will not find "confirmation" as an educational program in Scripture. So, why do we do it? As Christians, we are followers of Jesus; we are His disciples. And as disciples, sitting at His feet as it were, we are people who are learning what it means to be a baptized child of God & what that means, confirming that this is indeed what we believe from Scripture. This spiritual formation process may be the most intentional and specialized spiritual training Christians ever receive, to the point that they even make vows before God & man that they will be faithful to Scripture and to this Confession (doctrine) even unto death.

Another way to look at this training comes from **Philippians 3:20**, "*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*" and like people becoming new citizens to a country (like the United States of America) Disciples are expected to know certain things. Things like history, attitudes, behaviors, culture norms, even knowing certain songs. This is also true for people whose citizenship is of heaven. As citizens of heaven, you begin a more intensive & intentional program that helps to prepare you for life in Christ, and membership in the evangelical Lutheran Church. Catechesis is about more than teaching facts.

Catechesis is a lifelong process of formation in the Christian faith. As students, teachers, and Pastors meet together, they begin a process set to continue through a person's whole life. It involves new knowledge & information, seeking understanding. However, of equal importance is the fact that this involves new habits & practices, routines & rituals, as one's life is shaped and formed by God's Word and the Christian practices that confess & teach the faith drawn from God's Word.

To teach and learn the full breadth and depth of the Word of God takes longer than one lifetime here on earth. That being said, there are certain basic teachings that all Christians should know and affirm in their beliefs. And the goal of Confirmation is to address and answer the questions, "What is Christianity all about?" and "What does it mean to be a disciple?" so that Confirmands can make an informed confession of their faith. At the end of this confirmation process, our youth are asked to take up the baptismal vows made for them by their parents/sponsors/guardians with their own hands, and make their own public confession of what they believe about God, and confirmation classes are meant to help them to gain understanding as they put into words what they believe. Confirmation classes are also meant to give them a safe place to doubt, ask questions, gain deeper understanding, and to wrestle with the Christian faith and how it impacts their daily lives, that they may take up their Baptism with both hands and live in this world as a Forgiven Child of God.

As we approach and pass the upcoming Confirmation of our youth, let us all think about our own confirmations, and the vows we have each made to God, and to one another, to seek after one another that we might be strengthened in our faith-life together.

Not one of us is in this alone, but we are each called to work together as the Body of Christ as

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hands, feet, eyes, ears, lungs, stomachs, elbows, knees, livers, skin, etc. Not one of us has the same gifts or abilities, but all have been given a measure from the Lord to put to good and blessed use in His kingdom here in our corner of creation in Neenah, Wisconsin, and other places we are made able. Never do we do this alone, but together in Christ, we are able, whether we are mere hours old, or 103 years old, the Lord has a very heavenly purpose for each of us here and now until either He calls us home, or Christ returns first...

...In His Name,  
*Pastor Josiah J. Fitch*

### **Living Stewards**

You see an ad asking for volunteers to deliver to needy families some coats, hats, and gloves that have been purchased by a local charity. You volunteer to make six deliveries. At each home, the families shower you with praise for these thoughtful gifts. All day long you keep reminding them that you are only the messenger, and that the gifts really came from the charity.

In a way, this story is a true parallel to our lives as we dispense God's gifts, whether that be caring for our families, supporting ministries that share Jesus or sharing something with a neighbor who lives next door.

Since all the gifts in our lives are God's gifts, we find ourselves constantly reminding those who thank us that we are simply sharing God's things with them. We are not really being generous. We are not leaving a personal legacy. We are simply being faithful stewards with God's gifts, following through on the good works He prepared in advance for us to do, for which He prepared us with His gifts.

St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3, "*So whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*" That perspective reflects a heart captured by God's grace, intent on sharing that grace with everyone. Through His gifts God's saves with His Gospel.

If you would like to talk about giving perspectives, your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Craig Toerpe, Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation to answer questions regarding your current gift plan, or how you can financially support the Lord's work at 262-707-3005 or [craig.toerpe@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.toerpe@lfnd.org)

### **HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES 2021** **Lenten Theme: "Return to the Lord"**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 P.M. \*THEME: "Return to the Table"

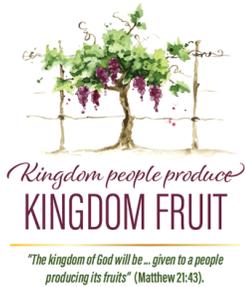
**GOOD FRIDAY:** Friday, April 2 at 7:30 P.M. THEME: "Return to Truth"

#### **EASTER SATURDAY – NO WORSHIP SERVICE**

**EASTER SUNDAY – SUNRISE:** Sunday, April 4 at 6:00 A.M. \* THEME: "Return to the Church"

**EASTER SUNDAY – FESTIVAL:** Sunday, April 4 at 8:00 & 10:45A.M. \* THEME: "Return and See"

\*The Lord's Supper will be offered in these services.



**April 10 & 11- Lutheran Women's Missionary League Mite Collection.** Your contributions will make it possible for the Good News of God's love and promise of salvation, to continue to be taught to people locally and around the world.

**April 12- Peace Mission Guild Gathering.** Join us at 6:30, in the Fellowship Hall, for "sister-ship" and a bible study, "From Good to Better to Best". As we begin to transition to the new normal, we realize how important spending time together, sharing, and studying His Word can be, for strengthening our faith.

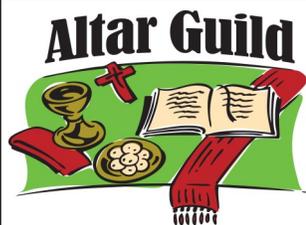
**April 17- LWML Zone 11 Spring Rally.** "That You May Believe. That You May Have Life", is the theme for this event, hosted by Trinity Lutheran, Oshkosh. The Gifts from the Heart Ingathering will be for Bella Medical Clinic, Oshkosh. A list of items needed, can be found on the Peace LWML board. If interested, please contact Mary Lou Thur at 920-267-8311.

**May 10- Peace Mission Gathering.** "Let Your Light Shine", will be the theme for our Spectacular Spring Event. Join us at 6:30pm, in the specially decorated Fellowship Hall. We're "gonna light it up", with entertainment, laughter, and fun, while we learn how to "shine", as Christians. There will not be a meal, but a very tasty dessert. You may sign up on the board at church or contact Judy Daley /414-418-8101 or Paulette Stecker/ 414-899-6193.

**Mission Moment. POBLO.** This group offers outreach and human care services to immigrants and refugees in local communities. This \$15,000 grant will be used to train/equip churches and staff, to engage and witness Christ's love to Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist communities.

**Everyday Evangelism.** While on this earth, Jesus talked about God's abundant and endless love for us. He was constantly showing love and serving others. **We** are Jesus' hands and feet on this earth, directed to continue the work that he began. Is God's love flowing through you? Are people in your life compelled by how passionately and personally you care about them? "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

**Treasures in the Trunk event June 12th 8am to 12 noon** Each year, the Board of Social Ministry sponsors an event called Treasures in the Trunk. This is a medical benefit for a member of our congregation. If you are aware of someone who may be in need of financial help for medical bills, please contact Lori Kleinschmidt (809-3077) or Pastor Schroeder by April 30. This event takes many hands to be successful. We will need help from the congregation, whether you are interested in donating gently used items to sell from your trunk, or if you have the talent of directing traffic or shoppers. Please consider this event as you do your spring cleaning.



## Altar Guild

Altar Guild – Preparing the Lord's Altar for Worship

This is a request to prayerfully consider joining us the Altar Guild Team in preparing God's house for worship.

Qualifications – A devout spirit and reverent demeanor.

It is a great honor and privilege to care for God's house and with that said, our numbers are diminishing and additional help is needed. Currently we work in teams to prepare for worship, generally serving for one month at a time, one service each week. You are under no obligation to sign up for an entire month; any help would be appreciated as we now have 3 services to prepare. You and a friend can make a team, or if you don't know of anyone, I will match you up with someone.

If you are considering serving, please call Sue Hardwick at 920-574-7662 and I will be able to answer any questions you may have.

# ODDS and ENDS

**COMMUNION APPOINTMENTS** If you are in need of receiving Holy Communion, you can call the church office and one of the pastors will arrange an appointment with you. This is not intended as a substitute for attending worship.

**ELDER PHONE CONTACTS** The Elders in their February meeting were assigned their groups and given the task to call all those in their groups to: Introduce themselves, and to Give encouragement to the membership as well as to Check on our member families. It will soon be a full year that we have been with COVID-19. It was felt that it would be good to check on the members of the congregation.

**ATTENDANCE CARDS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS** In moving forward to re-establishing what was once normal (prior to COVID-19) the attendance cards, Bibles and hymnals have been placed back in the pews. Members can exercise their level of comfortability in using these again. We request that the Bibles and hymnals be placed back as you found them with their bindings up. This will protect the paper pages from the effects of the sanitizer. The whole of the worship service will be printed out for some time.

**HOSPITAL VISITATION** As some area hospitals are allowing for some visitation, the pastors would like to remind you to please contact the church office if you incur hospitalization. Hospitals no longer automatically call on your behalf unless you request contact to be made. Depending on the hospital and its policies, the pastors may be able to come visit you.

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2021** The Elders in their March meeting, after some discussion decided that there will not be a midweek Wednesday service this summer. Retained will be the following schedule: Saturday at 5:00 P.M.) (masks required), Sunday at 8:00 A.M. (masks strongly encouraged) and Sunday at 10:45 A.M. (masks optional). Please remember that masks are required when in common areas i.e., the Narthex.



## Easter Breakfast

**Easter Breakfast:** As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we will be bringing back our fellowship time starting with Easter Breakfast. It will look a bit different this year, but we are excited to have this fellowship time with one another.

From 7:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. there will be available, juice, coffee and individually wrapped pastries. You will be able to “hunt” for these items in different locations, so we can keep everyone safe. The locations being set up will be in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, conference room and some of the Sunday School rooms. There will be a sign-up in the back hallway for pastry donations, you can bring donations to the kitchen either Thursday or when you come to Good Friday service.



## Pancake Breakfast

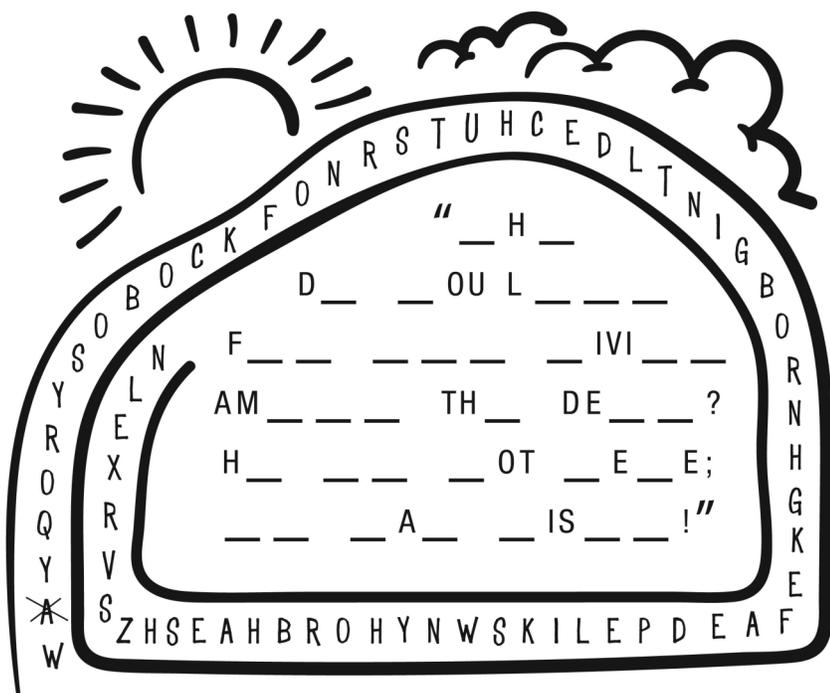
**Pancake breakfast:** We will not be doing the pancake breakfast this year, but there will be something happening Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> here at the church. Stay tuned and watch for more details in upcoming newsletters and bulletin news.



# EASTER MORNING *message*

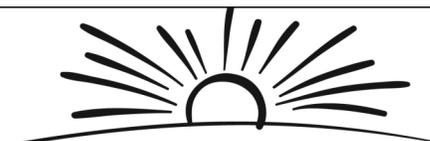
Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

*Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.*



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



## SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

### What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

**Peace Lutheran Church**

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Rev. Ricky P. Schroeder  
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Rev. Josiah Fitch  
Associate Pastor



**Peace  
Lutheran Church**  
NEENAH, WISCONSIN – LCMS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Reaching Out . . . Serving Jesus . . . Celebrating His Love*



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**Web site:**  
www.peaceneenah.com

**Worship Services**  
**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**  
**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**  
**10:45 a.m.**

Bible Study/Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Sundays

