

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Luke Lutheran Church,

Holy Week is upon us, and with it comes hope, strength, victory and the assurance of a new day.

On **Palm Sunday** we celebrated that Jesus comes lowly and humbly into our lives to bring unto us God's promised salvation.

On **April 6th, Maundy Thursday at the 6:30 PM Service** we will ask God for healing, remember the night our Lord instituted the Lord's Supper for our forgiveness, and prepare for Jesus' betrayal, arrest and crucifixion as the Altar is stripped and Psalm 122 is read, which captures Jesus' lament and hope from Calvary's cross.

On **April 7th, Good Friday** please attend a worship service at a local congregation to hear the passion story, and sing hymns that bring us "there when they crucified our Lord".

On **April 9th, Easter morning at 9:30 AM** we will join all of creation in celebration that on this spring morn, the stone has been rolled aside, the tomb is empty, death and sin have been swallowed up in victory, and the angels announce why do you seek the living amongst the dead, Jesus is risen, just as he said. St. Luke will provide a Choir on Easter and a small gift for those in attendance. Invite an unchurched neighbor, co-worker, classmate and/or relative. Tell someone who has quit attending St. Luke that God is doing great things here and that they are missed and that we would love to have them again worship, learn and serve with us.

### **The Easter Season**

Easter is not just a one day celebration. It is rather a liturgical season of the Church that is celebrated, this year, from April 9th (Easter Day) through May 27th (the Eve of Pentecost). During the Easter season the blessing of Jesus' death and resurrection helps us grow in faith, wisdom and grace. During this 50 day Season we are reminded that we are precious children God, whom God deemed to be so important that He sent Jesus to dwell among us and give His life to save and redeem us. During the Easter season we are reminded that in Christ's wounds and sacrifice our sins are forgiven, and so we can cast off shame, guilt and fear. This liturgical season of new life reminds us that we are members of the church, the communion of saints, which helps and encourages us, prays for us, and supports us during times of tribulation. During the Easter season we are given the assurance that as God transformed the suffering of Calvary unto the victory of Easter, so God will always be with us as our refuge and strength, until we receive the eternal blessing that are ours in the risen Savior. A blessed Easter season!

"As Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4

### **Why is the Easter Resurrection Important?**

**The resurrection is a Testament to God's Power.**

"With God all things are possible." Matt 19:26

**The resurrection shows us that God's Word is true and trustworthy.**

"Jesus said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the

chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Luke 9:22

**The resurrection reveals that we worship not dead idols, but a living God.**

"The Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation." Jeremiah 10:10

**The resurrection reveals that Jesus lives unto eternity.**

"Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." Romans 6:10

**The resurrection is proof that death and sin are swallowed up in victory.**

"For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"... The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:53-57

**The resurrection is the assurance of our own resurrection.**

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus." I Thessalonian 4:14

**The resurrection is a trustworthy testimony that Christ will come again.**

"In my Father's house, there are many mansions. If it were not so would I have said, I do and prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:2-3

**The resurrection bears witness to God's promise that God will never leave nor forsake us.**

"Then (the risen) Jesus came to the disciples and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:17-24

**The resurrection helps us believe that our living Lord dwells among us:**

**- In our hearts:**

"... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God". Ephesians 3:17

**- In the Fellowship of believers:**

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them". Matthew 18:20



**- In the sacraments:**

“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

**- In the poor and the needy:**

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

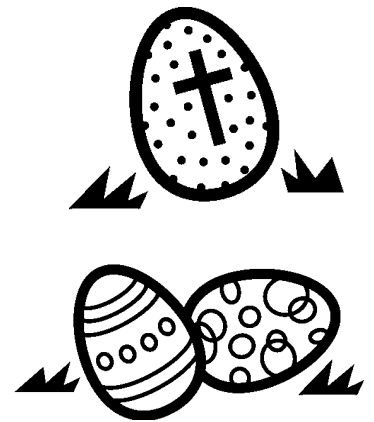
**The resurrection fills us with a living hope.**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”. 1 Peter 1:3

**Easter Humor: Good Medicine for the Heart and Soul**

Without the risen Savior in our hearts life is like:

- ♦ A chocolate Easter Bunny - empty on the inside;
- ♦ An Easter bonnet - easily blown off kilter;
- ♦ Last year's Easter outfit – doesn't quite fit right;
- ♦ An Easter lily - soon withers and dries up;
- ♦ A bag of Jellybeans - sugary and sweet, but no real substance;
- ♦ An unfound Easter basket - full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- ♦ A colored Easter egg - looks great, but cracks under pressure;
- ♦ The Easter bunny - always hopping here and there;
- ♦ Marshmallow Peeps - becomes hard when opened up;
- ♦ Easter parade - a long journey with no destination;
- ♦ An unopened Easter card - a message of love unclaimed.



Proverbs 17:22 “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.”

Please remember you can watch Sunday and Holy Week Services at [stlukeshebfalls.org](http://stlukeshebfalls.org). Many of you have said how much you appreciate these recorded services, and that they have been helpful and meaningful.

Please call the church office at (920) 467-6149 if you, or someone you know are in need of Pastoral Care.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. God is doing great things at St. Luke. Worship visitors are welcomed in the name of Christ. Children are growing in faith, wisdom and grace. Members generously help the less fortunate. We have a strong partnership with our Tanzania congregational partner. The Quilters continue to give their time and talents unto the glory of God. The Gospel is preached. The Sacraments bring the assurance of forgiveness. Edifying music is shared. The congregation supports financially and through volunteer services many outside organizations. Members are providing care, prayers and support for one another. Jesus is being glorified. The Call Process is moving forward. Thank you for your part in making this all possible.

Have a blessed Easter in the Risen Savior!

Interim Pastor Dave Patterson