



St. Jacob Evangelical Lutheran Church

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April 2023



## What's so important about Jesus dying and rising from the dead?

"I don't want to die. I want to live."

A man I had known for about 25 minutes said these words to me as we were flying over the Caribbean Sea between Puerto Rico and Antigua. We were in the middle of a horrific lightning storm. Ten seconds before he said this, our airplane had lost all power and began to dip rather suddenly towards the deep blue expanse of water beneath us. Thankfully, the airplane regained power after only a few agonizing seconds, and we quickly climbed back to our cruising altitude.

"Death scares me," he went on, "because I know nothing about it. I only know how to live."

Choosing between something you know nothing about and something you know quite a bit about is a pretty easy decision. Most everyone feels more confident with what they are familiar with. That's why this gentleman was not the first person to express himself in this way. He most certainly will not be the last. Who can feel more confident about dying than living since we only know about life and not death?

Jesus had never died either. But as he hung on his cross, he knew it was coming. In fact, he had told his followers the day before that **"it was for this reason (dying) that he came to this hour"** (John 12:27).

Jesus chose death, and he did so with you in mind. Jesus chose death to prove to you that those who follow him have no reason to be afraid of death.

If the pilot of our airplane had guaranteed the passengers before that flight that we would land safely, that he had flown through worse storms and made it, that the backup generators on the plane would keep any power outage from harming us, we would have been much more confident despite the storm.

Jesus makes a much greater guarantee when he tells us we don't have to be afraid of death. And he proved it by living after he died. The dead body of Jesus was placed in a grave on Friday evening, but he rose from the dead three days later.

When you follow Jesus, death's scare is taken away. The living Jesus gives you the confidence that your grave will be empty, just like his was. He tells all his disciples, **"Because I live, you also will live"** (John 14:19).

Jesus' death and resurrection are important because it guarantees for his believers that they too will rise from the dead and live forever!

Rejoicing in Christ's  
resurrection,  
*Pastor Kurt  
Uhlenbrauck*



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

The week before Easter from Palm Sunday to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is called Holy Week. Historically, the Christian Church has set aside this week to revere the world-changing events from Christ's last entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with his disciples, his death on the cross on Friday, and his rising back to life on Sunday morning. On Palm Sunday, April 2, we will remember Christ's special entry into Jerusalem and hear the last message of the sermon series "The Night before He Bled."



On April 6 you are invited to attend our special Holy Thursday service. The service will focus on how Jesus instituted a new covenant through the Lord's Supper. Pastor Uhlenbrauck will preach on "His Final Steps Led to the Upper Room."

Our Good Friday worship service on April 7 will begin at **7:30 pm** to more firmly focus our hearts and minds on our Savior's sacrifice. The Tenebrae Service, which is Latin for "Service of Darkness," dramatically depicts the darkness and the words of Christ while Jesus was on the cross. Pastor Uhlenbrauck will continue the Lenten series theme: "His Final Steps Led to the Place of the Skull."



Finally, you are cordially invited to celebrate Christ's resurrection with us on **Sunday, April 9 at 10:15 am**. Please join us for our Easter breakfast anytime from 8:30—9:30 am. After breakfast the children will enjoy a lesson, a craft, and an activity. Then at 10:15 am, we will gather to praise the Lord that Jesus has conquered



death and risen to life. The message will center on the theme: "His *First Steps* Led outside the Tomb." After the service the children are invited to comb the church property for colored eggs in our annual Easter egg hunt.

"In those whom I like, I can find no common denominator; in those whom I love, I can--they all make me laugh."

W.R. Auden

## SERMON SERIES IN APRIL

The final installment of the sermon series "**The Night before He Bled**" will take place on Palm Sunday, April 2. The series focuses on the discussions and discourses Jesus had with his disciples in the upper room on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week. Since Jesus was crucified on the cross the next day--Friday, these are the final words of Jesus before he was arrested and convicted.

Week 6—(April 2): **Sent Text: John 17:20-26**

Why doesn't God just take his kids out of this broken world? Answer: Because God wants more people to believe and be saved. This is how Jesus closed his epic prayer, a fact that reminds every Christian of the incredible calling we have to share our Savior with the world.

On Easter (April 9) the message will conclude the Lenten sermon series entitled "His Final Steps." Since the series has focused on Jesus' final steps to the cross and to his death, the message for Easter shifts its focus to his first steps outside of his tomb, using the theme "His *First Steps* Led outside the Tomb." Christ's first steps and appearance were to Mary Magdalene. We will hear how Jesus revealed himself to her in **John 20:11-18**.

Since the epistles lessons after Easter are all drawn from 1 Peter, our next sermon series will focus on messages from this book. Living Stones is a series of expository sermons on 1 Peter. Expository means to explain or describe something. With these sermons Pastor Uhlenbrauck will describe how Jesus is the precious Cornerstone and we are his living stones. Rev. Ken Behnken provided the outline for this series in Concordia Pulpit Resources (Vol. 3, Part 3), when he was the pastor of First Lutheran Church in Capistrano Beach, California.

Week 1—April 16 **Filling the Empty Spot**

The empty spot in our lives has been described as a God-shaped empty spot. Peter wrote his words to Christians, or God's elect, in Asia Minor, who were suffering for their faith. God also calls us to a new birth, a living hope. Our life is a refining process by trials of fire. We have an advantage over the prophets, who longed to see the fulfillment of God's prophecies and the angels who long to what it's like to be loved so much your sins are fully and freely forgiven because God's Son died for you. **Text: 1 Peter 1:1-13**

Week 2—April 23 **Therefore . . .**

Peter hangs what we learn today on what we studied last week. Therefore, after you prepare your minds for action, be holy because God is an impartial judge and because we were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. How did this happen? We have been born again through the living and enduring word of God. We also crave the spiritual milk of God's Word. Text: **1 Pet 1:13—2:3**

Week 3—April 30 **A Compelling Witness**

This week Peter encourages us to be different. It is how we live—not just what we say--that offers a compelling witness. We are to live such good lives among the heathen that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven. Jesus has set us free from sin and guilt so we should serve him happily. Peter warns us, "Do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but use it as servants of God" (1 Pet 2:16). We can be a compelling witness by pointing to the most compelling witness: Jesus himself. Text: **1 Peter 2:11-25**

### CHOIR

St. Jacob's choir will sing "What Wondrous Love Is This" on Holy Thursday and "If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death" on Resurrection Sunday. Join us in shouting for joy to the Lord and bursting into jubilant song.



### SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN APRIL

#### **Birthdays**



Karen Grime	3
Harry Peterson	4
Keith Pratt	7
Carol Pratt	18
Cari Glynn	19
Shawn Fallot	26

A pastor was trying to negotiate a lower price for his auto repairs. "Remember," he pleaded to the mechanic, "I'm a poor preacher."

"I know," the mechanic replied. "I was in church on Sunday."

Bernard Brunsting

### BIBLE STUDIES

First, Pastor Uhlenbrauck is always ready to start a Bible Information Class. All ages are welcome; there is no cost and the study will look at the basic truths of the Bible. We will use the "Life with Jesus" course to examine what our church believes. Simply call or email Pastor Uhlenbrauck and we will arrange a time to begin.

Second, after Easter Pastor invites you to a new Bible study on Sunday mornings called "Life Issues: What God Says." This Bible Study focuses on topics of interest to today's Christian. We will take A Look at Motive, What is Human Life, Life Protection before Birth, Improving the Species, Appropriate Care near the End of Life, and Making a Difference. This study is produced by Kremer Publications. Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am** to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.

Finally, an online Bible study on James on **Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm**. Classes will take place on Wednesday or Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Let Pastor Uhlenbrauck know if you are interested, so he can send you an invitation to your email.

### HOSPITALIZED & AILING IN MARCH

Suzie Pratt, the daughter-in-law of Keith & Carol Pratt, will be having foot surgery to relieve pain.

Dale Prentice, husband of member Laurie Prentice, is recovering from noninvasive lung surgery.

Annette Furca received the results from her stress test and doesn't need any more stents put in. She will undergo cardiac therapy soon.

Carol and Keith Pratt are receiving care at home. Carol is on oxygen to help her breathe.

Charles Vicory has been homebound for some time. Pray that he can return to worship soon.

Joan Hoffman resides in the memory care area at Vista Grande Villa in Jackson.

Mae June Rowe is living in her apartment in The Grand at Countryside.

Please notify Pastor when you or a member of your family is ill or admitted to a hospital. He would love to help and pray for you.

"I was young and foolish then. Now I am old and foolisher." Mark Twain

## LWMS SPRING RALLY



Ladies (and men) of St. Jacob, the Alpha Circuit of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society invites you their Spring Rally at Ascension Lutheran Church, 23401 23 Mile Rd. in

Macomb on Saturday, April 29. Registration and fellowship will begin at 9 am and the rally will start at 9:30am. Our contact person is Gloria Aita and our host pastor is Pastor Dan Simons.

Ascension will be providing childcare, beverages and desserts . . . please bring your own sack lunch. Also, please invite and bring along some members of your home church. Our featured speaker's topic information may be found in your Mission Project book under the WM-2022-10 heading on page 25. Due to possible security risk I won't be using his name in print. We can look forward to hearing some very valuable insight into this mission field. Treasurer Barb has given the green light to extend the date for mission box monies to April 8. Elections for 5 board offices will take place at the meeting.

## FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

The fellowship activities for April include the church's annual Easter breakfast. The church council will prepare and serve a delicious meal of pancakes, sausages, fruit, eggs and biscuits and gravy. We invite you to enjoy this time of food and fellowship on Sunday, April 9 from 8:30--9:30 am. The other activity in April is the Sunday Social on April 30 after the worship service. See you there!



## PASTORS' CONFERENCE

On April 18-19 Pastor will be attending the spring Pastors' Conference of the Southeast Conference of the Michigan District. The conference will conclude on Wednesday, April 19 at noon. If you need to reach Pastor Uhlenbrauck, please call his cell phone at 517-513-2033.

Redemption changes our heritage from a living death to a deathless life.

## NEPTUNE SOCIETY

Recently, Pastor Uhlenbrauck met with a sales rep named Mark Badalament, from the Neptune Society, a cremation service company. The Neptune Society was established in 1973 and is the longest running and largest in the United States. It has an A+ rating with the National Better Business Bureau and is endorsed by the American Legion and the VFW. The pre-arrangement package is guaranteed not to change over time and it includes everything that needs to be done. Some other features of the pre-arrangement package include removal from place of death, away from home protection, transportation to a licensed, holding facility, a cremation container and 100% service guaranteed. Contact Mark at 734-915-9135 or [Mark.Badalament@sci-us.com](mailto:Mark.Badalament@sci-us.com) or talk with Pastor Uhlenbrauck for more information.

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Tune: Joy to the world



Joy to the World, the Lord's alive:  
Awake, rejoice and sing!  
It's just as He had said, He's risen  
from the dead,

Salvation now He brings, salvation now He brings,  
Salvation, salvation, now He brings.

Joy to the World, the empty tomb proclaims a  
victory

Of light compelling, a great dispelling  
Of darkness in the world, of darkness in the world,  
Of darkness, darkness in the world.

Joy to the World, our Savior reigns, let heaven and  
earth proclaim

The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

composed by Rev. Paul Lintern  
*Joyful Noiseletter* Associate Editor

## E—A—S—T—E—R

**E** -- is for EASTER most glorious day,

**A** -- is for ANGEL who rolled the stone away,

**S** -- is for SALVATION that Jesus brought,

**T** -- is for TELLING what our Savior taught,

**E** -- is for EACH sinner Christ died to save,

**R** -- is for RESURRECTION and the empty grave.

Caroline L. Neipp  
Redding, CA

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Spring Clean Up 9:00 AM
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:15 AM Choir Practice 11:30 AM	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM	7 Good Friday Worship <b>7:30 PM</b>	8
9 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM Children's Activity 9:15 AM Resurrection Day Worship with Communion 10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 AM	10	11 Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm  Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	12 WinGS Meeting 6:30 PM	13 Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM	14	15
					Sisters in Christ Retreat, Lansing, MI	
16 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:15 AM Quarterly Meeting 12:00 PM	17	18	19 Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM	20	21	22 KLC Clean Up
		Pastors' Spring Conference				
23 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM	24	25	26 Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM	27	28	29 LWMS Spring Rally 9:00 am Ascension, Macomb
30 Sunday School & Bible Class 9:00 AM Worship followed by Sunday Social 10:15 AM						