

# APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Holy Week Worship



**Maundy Thursday**

**April 1, 2021**

**Worship Services with Communion**

**11:00 am and 7:00 pm**



**Good Friday**

**April 2, 2021**

**Worship Services**

**2:00 pm and 7:00 pm**



**Easter**

**April 4, 2021**

**Worship Services**

**6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, and 11:30 am**

## Our 2021 Confirmands

Brady Clocksin

Ella Fisk

Kiera Gossman

Kellen Hansen

Alyson Hutchinson

Olivia Olson

Eleanor Overweg

Amber Roman

Addison Warriner

Confirmation Questioning—April 21, 2021 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

Confirmation—Sunday, April 25, 2021 at the 11:00 worship service



# The Senior Pastor's Page

## "He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:6)

Was it the greatest hoax devised by human hands? Did He pass out and later, inside the tomb, recover and escaped? Did His followers steal His body and spread the story that He was still alive? Was there a twin brother that made an appearance or two after He died to make everyone think He was alive? Could there have been some sort of mass hypnosis, tricking people into believing that He died and rose again? Could all this be the product of legend, wishful thinking on the part of weak-minded people? I find it interesting that sometimes people will believe just about anything and everything... except the truth.

The truth about Lent is that our Savior died on the cross for the sins of the world; our sins included. It was our hands that whipped him and beat him. It was our hands that pounded the nails through his hands and feet. It was our voices that shouted "Crucify him! Crucify him!" It was our sins that crushed him under the punishment of God the Father's wrath.

Our sins, you say? But that happened thousands of years ago in a place thousands of miles away from here! How could I have anything to do with that?

Yet the Bible is clear, from the moment we were conceived in sin, we were there. The moment we looked at someone with lustful thought, we were there. The moment we hated our brother or ridiculed our parents, we were there. The Prophet Isaiah places us at Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion when he writes: "he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." There is no denying it. No way to rationalize it or explain it away. It was our sins which put Jesus on that cross. And it was His love for us that kept Him on His cross.

**And because [Jesus] rose to life, everything He ever said is absolutely true.**

Yet, our Savior did not remain there. The truth about Easter is that Jesus rose to life on the third day. And because He rose to life, everything He ever said is absolutely true. Similarly, everything He ever claimed to be, He is. And everything He ever promised will come to pass. This is the reason we who believe in Him live each day in joy. This is the reason we live each day in certainty. This is the reason we carry on. Because Jesus lives, we who believe in Him will live also! There is then every reason to celebrate this victory with a life dedicated to serving God.

My friends, there is no well-designed hoax. No crazy conspiracy. No mass hypnosis. No twin brother. There's only Jesus, lovingly giving His life for you. There's only Jesus, giving you His victory over sin, death, and the devil. Good Friday and Easter Sunday, it's why our hearts will always be glad, and our tongues always rejoice.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Coy T. Pji





## “The First Sign”

“This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him” (John 2:11). Our window for this month depicts Jesus’ first miracle. He is invited to a wedding. The wine runs out, which was even more of a faux pas then than it would be today. Jesus solves the problem with water transformed into wine.

God has been turning water into wine since the dawn of creation. A collection of water vapor, a cloud, rolls across the sky. At some point, that water falls to the ground as rain. The grape vine’s roots collect the water. It is transformed into nourishment for the plant. At the right time, this nutrition causes grapes to form. The grapes grow and increase in sweetness. They are harvested, squashed, and stored in barrels. Through the action of yeast, the sugars are converted into alcohol. Wine is born.

This simple process is so common that we can miss the miracle at play. God freely and actively transforms his creation into gifts for his people. But never before has he done this so rapidly. The entire process takes almost a year. Jesus condenses this into the span of a few sentences: collect water, draw some, give it to the master of the feast. It should come as no surprise that the God who creates the natural world can easily alter the course of those events.

What is surprising is who witnesses this miracle. To most of the guests, nothing special has occurred. They now have some fine wine to drink. But Jesus’ disciples, as well as the servants, saw what he did and how he did it. Jesus manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him. It’s that simple. We witness the mighty deeds of Jesus and we believe. Some of the miracles are easy to miss. Others stand large in our sights. They all drive together at the same effect. Jesus manifests his power to us, and we believe in him.

The next time you drink some wine, perhaps even at a wedding, take time to reflect upon God’s good creation. He orders and controls all the big events of the earth as well as giving the rains in their season. God is in charge of these “normal” things. And he also shows us his power in the “big” moments of life. In all of his actions, continue to place your trust in him. He is providing for you.

*Pastor Sam*





## THIS IS THE DAY!

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice  
and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

How many of you have said at one time or another, "I can't wait for this week to be over." Or, "This is the worst day ever!" Or, how many days have you just "wanted to get through it." I'll admit, I'm guilty of all three. Every day we have is a day created by God; a gift. We ought to treasure it; we don't know if it will be our last. Instead of being burdened with stress, frustration and heaviness, it is an opportunity to share God's love, and praise and thank him for his goodness.

Interestingly, there are many people – even Christians – who are cranky, ill-tempered and moody. They don't seem to realize the mystery and fragility of that day. The day just exists. It's a gift that we take for granted – and plenty of times – grumble about. However, the Psalmist compels us to rejoice. Every day? Even on the bad days? All things this side of heaven are not perfect. You might have a boss or a co-worker who's a real pain – yet, it's a job that pays the bills. What about a winter that lingers on and on; it's cold and miserable and spring can't come too soon – fortunately, the seasons change.

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,  
Tell the news, the gospel spread!  
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,  
Praise Christ risen from the dead!  
Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;  
Sing of the seed from barren earth greening;  
Sing of creation, Alleluia!  
Sing of the stream from Jesus' side flowing;  
Sing of the saints in water made holy,  
Sing of salvation, Alleluia!  
Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!



# EASTER

Day of delight and beauty unbounded,  
Tell the news, the gospel spread!  
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,  
Praise Christ risen from the dead!  
Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;  
Sing now the mystery, hope of our glory;  
Sing with thanksgiving, Alleluia!  
Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;  
Sing the Lord's favor lasting forever;  
Sing all things living, Alleluia!  
Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!

The above hymn joyfully expresses the Easter mystery of new life born from suffering and death. It celebrates the believer's participation in the victory of Christ's resurrection. It's similar to a litany – a series of invocations and responses. It's even kind of a mini-history of creation and salvation: Sun (cosmic creation), Seed (Christ formed man), Water flowing from Jesus' side (the Passion) and Baptism and the Saints (the life of the Church). It celebrates THE DAY!

It's very repetitive. It has the same words over and over. And it's repetitive. Doesn't that bear repeating?

Karen Lindbloom



## Preschool News

Finally! Spring weather! I'm definitely looking forward to outside activities again!

We have had a busy month at preschool! In March and continuing into April, we are learning about the Easter story, the color purple, the oval shape, the number 6 and the letters Z, Y and Q. The highlight of this month is new life and animals, what a great way to explore God's wonderful creation! We are planning to take a spring walk to look at all the beauty in our world.

We are in the middle of registration for the 2021-2022 school year! We are full in our MTW AM class but still have opening in our MTW PM and THF AM classes! If you are interested in signing up your child for preschool please do it soon, as space does fill up quickly.

God's blessings to each of you as you enjoy this beautiful spring weather and experience the joy of the Easter season.

Hope LaForest, Director/teacher



# He's Risen!

## Daycare News

Greetings!

March was another busy and blessed month as we've opened a new room, gone through a crazy amount of staff-turnover, and hosted a fundraiser.

We are so grateful for the support that was shown through our Butter Braid fundraiser. From those who volunteered to sell to those who purchased the Butter Braids--thank you, thank you, thank you! We sold \$11,543.50 worth of Braids, making a \$4,926.00 profit for the daycare! This is tremendous and will help us greatly in purchasing curriculum supplies and new toys for our preschool rooms.

This last month we opened our fourth preschool room! We are excited to be able to welcome and love on more new families and to see our ministry grow.

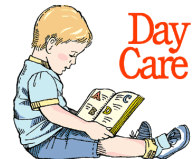
Speaking of growth-- we have been praying relentlessly to be sent driven, passionate, and loving individuals to fill our open positions, and I am so thrilled to say

that these prayers are being answered! While we're still looking to fill the Lead Preschool 4 Teacher, Assistant Cook, and Infant Helper positions, we have been blessed with four amazing new employees already. These four (along with all the rest of our incredible staff) have stepped up and handled all of the craziness and shuffling around with patience and so much grace. I am feeling extremely grateful for the employees who continuously show up and work so hard to keep our children safe and who make it their goal to love the children as Jesus does.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and your prayers as we continue to work to better our center, ourselves, and – in return – our community. Please join us in asking God to send us the individuals meant to be a part of our mission and our growth!

God bless,

Moriah Kiepkke



## Official Acts

### Baptism

Cooper Daniel Hughes

4/3/21

### Wedding

Devin Kampfe & Jaslyn Konst

4/17/2021



## Adult Inquirer's Class

A New Adult Class is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- ♦ Terrific review for Lutherans.
- ♦ Membership for non-Lutherans if you wish to join.
- ♦ What do Lutherans believe about infant Baptism?
- ♦ What does the Bible teach about Jesus?
- ♦ How many Gods are there?
- ♦ Do Lutherans believe differently than others about the Lord's Supper?
- ♦ These and other topics, plus all your questions, will be a part of our Adult Inquirer's Class

Everyone is invited to attend this class whether you wish to join in membership or not. Please call the office (224-2216) if you are planning to attend as we will get food for a noon meal.

## Mexico Mission Trip Spring Yard Work – Rent-A-Worker



Be watching in the Narthex for information about our spring rent-a-worker program. We will again be doing yard cleanup, power-raking, window cleaning, small odd jobs, and other fund raising opportunities for you to support this mission financially.



## Softball League

Faith Lutheran is again planning to have a men's softball team. We need a few more players to fill the roster. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Dennis Ryckman at 222-7713 as soon as possible. Must have parent's permission if under 18. The team plays on Friday nights during the summer months of May to early August. Factor 360 is also looking for another business to help co-sponsor the team registration fee.





# COMPASSION SUNDAY

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Compassion Sunday on April 25, 2021 with a follow-up Sunday May 2, 2021.

Compassion has more than 1 million alumni around the world whose lives have been changed. They are doctors, lawyers, government workers and community leaders. Research indicates that sponsorship is a reliable and effective way to help children. But Compassion goes further by working exclusively through local churches to deliver the program. The program cares for children's spiritual and physical needs—all through a local church just like ours. Plus, Compassion submits an annual audit, and sends field auditors to thousands of program sites each year to ensure our funds are used properly and only to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion is 100% committed to working with local churches—and have over 7,000 evangelical Christian church partners overseas delivering services and ministry to more than 2 million children. For more information, check out [compassion.com/financial](http://compassion.com/financial).

There will be many packets on the table in the Living Room with descriptions of a child in need of support. Check them out before, after, or between services.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3 NIV



This is a great opportunity to live out God's call to care for the poor. As a sponsor, not only will you help support a child's growth and development, but you also will build a relationship with him or her. Through letters, you can remind a child that you love them, that God loves them and that there is hope.

## POVERTY FACTS

Worldwide, **385 million** children live in extreme poverty.  
 Every **2 minutes**, a child dies of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.  
 An estimated **61 million** primary school age children worldwide don't attend school.  
 Around **45%** of deaths of children under 5 are linked to undernutrition.  
 Globally, **2.1 billion** people don't have safe water at home.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8 NIV



## Youth Lock-in

Middle and high school students, come join us for a lock-in. We'll have food, fun, and fellowship from 6PM on Friday, April 9 until 9AM on Saturday, April 10. Plan on staying awake the whole night and seeing if you can pop a balloon or two. See Pastor Sam or Julie Kongslien if you are interested.



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at Faith. Open to anyone in high school and is intended to be a safe place where high school aged youth can come together to spend time and fellowship together as young Christians each week. Pastor Handschke and Michael Shoup lead the group. If you have an activity that you would like to do, please let them know! Creativity is welcome!

## Camp Minneboji

Camp is scheduled for June 20-26, 2021. Minneboji is a Lutheran summer camp program led by our South Dakota and Minnesota South districts of the LCMS and hosted at Camp Okoboji in Milford, Iowa.

This year's theme is "Washed," exploring who we are as baptized children of God. Through Bible study, talks with missionaries, music, crafts, and sports, your student will develop their sense of who God has made them and called them to be.

Registration forms will soon be available in the church office. See Pastor Sam with questions or if you are interested.

