

Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

MAY 2022

*"These things I have spoken to you,
that my joy may be
in you, and that
your joy may be full."
John 15:11*



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Pastor's Message

There is a story of a Sunday school teacher who was questioning his young students to see if they knew what Easter is all about. After hearing several failed attempts at explaining Easter from the little children that included misplaced descriptions of decorated evergreen trees, snow men and Santa, red hearts, jack-o-lanterns, red, white and blue bunting, fireworks, and the pilgrims, one youngster finally seemed to be on the right track. "No, Easter is about Jesus," he declared. "He was killed and buried, but after three days, he came back to life and came out of the tomb...and if he sees his shadow, we have three more weeks of winter!"

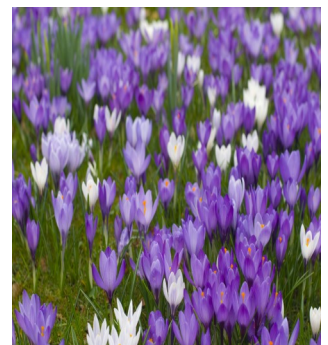
We chuckle over childish misunderstanding of the story, but it contains a solemn indictment...and it may not be what you think...or wish!

On Easter Sunday morning, in countless towns all across the country, thousands of little feet scampered through houses and across yards. In unbridled joy, exuberance, and reckless abandon, eager eyes sought out the hiding places of brightly colored eggs, flocks of Peeps, herds of chocolate bunnies, and enough jellybeans to choke Willie Wonka!

Meanwhile, in other parts of town, many "good Christians" gathered and piously, if not maybe even somberly, sang songs that celebrated the "real meaning of Easter" - the good news of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

What I wonder is, which group captured the real underlying spirit of joy, giddy excitement, and true discovery of Easter?

And if our neighbors and their children or grandchildren don't know the "real" meaning of Resurrection Sunday, who is at fault? And if they were to have come to our places of worship on Easter morning, would they have been expected to check their enthusiasm at the door?





Matins and Compline



Pr. Gary will be accompanying Betty to a NALC Disaster Response convention in Irving, Texas the first week of May. Consequently, there will be no Matins or Compline services from Monday, May 2nd, through Friday, May 6th. Prayer Office services will resume on Monday, May 9th.

Disaster Response Warehouse Update

Thank you for your continued support of the Iowa Mission District (IMD) Warehouse located just north of Chatfield, MN as well as the national NALC Disaster Response. Your support is greatly appreciated especially by the recipients of your donations.

A fully stocked warehouse has 500 of each of the items: Bibles, Flood Buckets, Health Care Kits, Quilts & Blankets, and School Kits (500 *each* Elementary and High School).

At this time, the IMD Warehouse does not have any Health Care Kits or School Kits! How can you help restock the warehouse? If each congregation in the IMD could commit to putting together 15 Health Care Kits, 15 Elementary School Kits and 15 High School Kits, we can restock our warehouse rather quickly!

What happens once you have your kits ready to go? Stack them on the table in the adult classroom. Pr. Gary and I will take care of getting them to the warehouse.

Not able to put the kits together? You can make a financial donation to this project by dropping a check in the offering plate and I can purchase the items and assemble the kits for you. Put a note in the memo line – IMD Warehouse Kits.

What's in a kit? A current list is on the bookcase in the narthex.

I have estimated each Health Care Kit and School Kit, fully assembled, comes in around \$15 per kit.

One more request! I am asking each congregation to name a Disaster Response contact! Let me or Pr. Gary know if you would be willing to take on this responsibility.

Betty Burkhalter



May Worship Assistant Assignments

Sunday, May 1	Sunday, May 8	Sunday, May 15	Sunday, May 22	Sunday, May 30
Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Pete Wood	Lector: Terri Gould	Lector: Annie Puffett	Lector: Pete Wood
Fellowship: Potluck	Fellowship: Marge Downs	Fellowship: Bill & Rozella Green	Fellowship: Dave & Terri Gould	Fellowship: Pete Wood
Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green



Over the Coffee



The devil doesn't come in dressed in red
cape and pointy horns.
He comes as everything you have ever
wished for.
Pray for wisdom and discernment.





Stanza of the Month

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LBW #230 v.1)

One of the ways that our Lutheran doctrine is expressed is in what we sing. It's important to realize that not only do we sing what we believe, but we tend to believe what we sing, sometimes without really being aware that that belief is shaped or formed. Consequently, Lutherans try to ensure that in our songs more attention and focus is given to what our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is doing than to what we're doing!

One good example of that can be found in hymn #230: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*. The first stanza reads:

*“Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son,
and bring to naught all he has done.”*

The title pretty much says it all! Because the scripture tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing from the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17), we recognize the importance of hearing and knowing that Word. But, as we declare in the Small Catechism, by our own power and understanding, we cannot believe in Christ our Lord or come to him! Our tendency as sinners is to turn this steadfastness into a work of our own, some sort of accomplishment of ours. In doing so, we would be trying to “wrest (wrestle) the kingdom” from God's Son! The sinner in us would rather sing something that would lift up or emphasize what we're doing – like focusing on how much we're reading the Bible, or how good we're becoming at memorizing scripture! But by doing that we would deceive ourselves and would indeed be trying to “bring to naught all he has done”!



MIC Council
April 19, 2022

The Mission in Christ Council met on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Those present were Pastor Burkhalter, President Bill Green, Michelle Borrett, Chris Schlee and Terri Gould. Doug Puffett was unable to attend.

Bill called the meeting to order and then led a devotion entitled “The Rich Family in Our Church” which spoke on the meaning of true riches.

Terri then read the minutes of the last meeting. Chris moved and Michelle seconded a motion to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Michelle then presented the treasurer's report for March. At the end of March, the checking account balance was \$18,121.63. The offering total was \$4,983.00. Of that, \$535.00 was designated for the Memorial Fund and \$100.00 to the Ladies Fund. This left \$4,348.00 going to the General Fund. The expenses for the month totaled \$6,575.47. Having no questions, Pastor moved and Chris seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

The Worship Team had no official report but had met to finish planning Holy Week services. The consensus was that the services went well.

In his report, Pastor noted three visitations and Holy Communion served to three. Joys and concerns included hosting text study in April, service for Marilyn Fredrick, Lenten mid-week services may be eliminated next year due to conflicts with the Confirmation schedule which resulted in dismal attendance this year, Holy Week services well attended – online higher than expected, Easter very good attendance, *Mere Christianity* book study wrapping up and some glitches with the planning of the Feulner funerals. He will be meeting with one of the daughters to discuss this. Dates to note coming up:

- April 21: Vacation day due to funeral
- April 23: Iowa Mission District Council, traveling to Mason City with Chris
- May 1-4: Travel to Irving, Texas for NALC Disaster Response Event
- May 5: Vacation day
- May 6: Travel home
- May 9-10: STS regional meeting at Stone Center
- May 28: Pending services for Johnny and Marilyn Feulner

The Council then moved on to new business. After discussion, Terri moved and Bill seconded a motion to distribute first quarter benevolence funds as follows:

- NALC: \$500.00
 - Iowa Mission District: \$118.75
 - Ekka family: \$200.00
- Ethiopia Tornado Disaster Fund: \$1,018.38
Motion carried.



Chris then proposed a slight moving of the shed location to make for a more convenient entry from the back and snow removal. Pastor moved and Bill seconded a motion to move the shed approximately 6 feet to the east and pour extra concrete as proposed. Motion carried. Bill commented that the shed needs shelving and a parishioner has some to sell. Bill was instructed to look into this since it sounds like the type of unit we would be looking for. Other needed tools were discussed. An electric trimmer was top on the list. It was determined to use funds recently donated to the Memorial Fund for this purpose.



Council Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

In old business, Chris reported that he had spoken to Del Timmerman and the next step is for Chris to approach the city with their plans. Terri mentioned there is a slim chance the city will be working on the street. Plans tabled until this can be determined.

The council then discussed at length how best to proceed with an outreach program. Many ideas were proposed for the council to consider. Pastor will work on a Bible study addressing this.

Having no other business, Pastor then volunteered for next month's devotions.

Michelle moved and Pastor seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Motion carried.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Gould, secretary

Cloud of Witnesses



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. They are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this “great cloud”. Here is a list of “cloud members” who are remembered during the month of May:

- May 1: Philip and James, Apostles
- May 2: Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373
- May 4: Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387
- May 8: Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died ~1416
- May 9: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760
- May 18: Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160
- May 21: Helena, mother of Constantine, died ~330
- May 24: Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonard Euler, died 1783; scientists
- May 27: John Calvin, renewer of the church died 1564
- May 29: Jiri Trnovsky, hymnwriter, died 1637



Mission in Christ Lutheran Church
A ministry of the NALC

312 East Mission St.
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Office Phone: 563-933-6525

Emergencies: 815-394-9309

Email:

secretary@missioninchristluth.onmicrosoft.com



**We're on
Facebook!**

*Join us for Worship
9 AM Sundays
And online
through our
Facebook page or
Mission in Christ Website
Coffee and Fellowship
immediately following Service*

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

