

The Epistle of

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

Est. 1964

The Dead in Christ, Will Rise Again

Who in this world has not faced the reality of losing a loved one? Death is all around us and the world constantly fights against it. Mankind still searches for the fountain of youth blind to the fact that life is given only by God himself.

In John chapter eleven, Jesus loses a good friend named Lazarus. Here Jesus experienced the same grief you and I have felt in our lives too. When Jesus received the news, his friend was close to death, the disciples didn't want him to go. They feared for him, saying, "Rabbi, the Jews there are wanting to stone you."

They didn't want to lose Lazarus, but even more so, they didn't want to lose Jesus. At this point they still did not yet understand who Jesus is, or his mission. Jesus, however, did go to Bethany; but not until Lazarus was dead. He did this to demonstrate his purpose.

The stage was set. Grief had set in, people were mourning, and even Jesus wept. In this episode we truly see Jesus in the fulness of his humanity, yet we also see the fulness of his divinity, showing himself to be God in the flesh. Marth, a sister of Lazarus came to him and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." [John 11:21-27 ESV]

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»»» PUBLISHING DEADLINE «««

THE DEADLINE FOR
JUNE/JULY 2019
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WILL BE

MAY 15TH AT NOON

please type and submit articles
by email to Lacy Urban at:

secretary@stjohnsmoore.org

EMAILING ARTICLES HELPS TO ELIMINATE ERRORS.

The Dead in Christ, Will Rise Again

CONTINUED...

Then, after consoling her sister Mary, Jesus went to the tomb. The body of Lazarus had been there four days. After praying, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." To the astonishment of everyone, Lazarus came out of the tomb, and they took the bindings off him. The once dead Lazarus was now very much alive. This is what Jesus does, he gives life. For you, and for all who have died in the faith he will likewise call us to come forth, as he has released us from the bondage of our sins.

Just as there was a joyous reunion that day for the family of Lazarus, so too will there be a greater reunion for us, the family of Jesus, when he brings us into his kingdom. This is what his death and resurrection was all about, the forgiveness of sins, and life for all eternity. Amen.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Bersche

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Happy Anniversary

April 11th

Barbara & Carl Grey

April 12th

Bruce & Charlotte Baird

April 18th

Shandi & Will Flores

April 26th

Ian & Joan Adams

April 27th

Anna & Eugene Johnson

April 30th

Larry & Darlene Grummer

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|------------|--|
| April 3rd | Brian Levendusky, Joyce Wallen |
| April 5th | Brandon Dailey, Hayden Flake |
| April 6th | Austin Tollers, Ariana Roggow, Jeff Groh |
| April 7th | Lindsay Melton, Marilyn Henderson |
| April 8th | Kathrine Ward, Bobbye Lannom |
| April 10th | Mary Straka |
| April 12th | Logan Carter, Shandi Flores |
| April 15th | Keith Stuewe |
| April 16th | Rick Harpham |
| April 17th | Sarah Holley |
| April 20th | Kari Willis |
| April 21st | Casey O'Connor |
| April 22nd | Judy Creagan |
| April 26th | Theresa Roggow |
| April 27th | Jane Leeper |
| April 28th | Peter O'Loughlin |





Happy Anniversary

- May 15th
Garry & Linda Hinrichs
- May 20th
Dick & Eileen Kortemeier
- May 21st
Brent & Suzet Roggow
- May 22nd
Walter & Henriette Pratt
- May 26th
Don & Karen Harrison
- May 28th
Sam & Marie Christopher
- May 30th
Luv & Brandon Dailey

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|----------|---|
| May 2nd | Pete Shurow |
| May 4th | Christina (Groh)Cox |
| May 5th | Mack Matthews |
| May 6th | Wanda Van Gelder, Kellie McBee, Marge Westerman |
| May 7th | Rex Barker |
| May 10th | Carter Riley |
| May 11th | Stephen Mathes |
| May 13th | Sherri Tolman |
| May 15th | Walker Fools |
| May 16th | Troy Levendusky, Danily Graumann |
| May 18th | Dorsey Ramsey |
| May 20th | Cliff Corey, Anna Ward, LaWanda McCurdy |
| May 22nd | Jennifer Karner, Barbara Kuter |
| May 23rd | Robert O'Connor |
| May 24th | Garrett Johnson |
| May 26th | Cindy Eskew |
| May 27th | Bob Striegel, Beth Groh, Will Flores |
| May 30th | John Tate |
| May 31st | William Christian |



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Holy Week

By Craig Sproat

For Christians, every Sunday is Easter, a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Early in the Church's history, though, she began celebrating the event more fully on a specific day. Originally, everything – Christ's betrayal, death, and resurrection – was condensed into one great observance, but over time, the events were spread out, and the seasons of Holy Week, Lent, and the fifty days of Easter developed. This was true especially in the Holy Land where Christians could commemorate the events at the actual sites at which they took place. Pilgrims and visitors carried many of these traditions and ceremonies back to their own churches. Holy Week thus contains some of the most ancient and universal ceremonies and texts in the Church. As we move through Holy Week, the purpose is not to try and put ourselves in that time as if we can recreate or reenact the moments. Rather, the ceremonies act as visual, aural, and physical reminders of what Christ had to go through for us and, most importantly, the salvation accomplished for us through these actions.

The service on Palm Sunday begins with a recollection of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. Records indicate that the church in Jerusalem had such a procession at least by the fourth century, and from there it spread throughout the rest of Christendom. The text of "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," was written around 800 for such a celebration in France. Once the actual Divine Service begins, though, the focus quickly shifts to the reason Jesus entered Jerusalem: to be led out again for His death. As with much of the Holy Week liturgy, many of the texts appointed for this day have been used since such records exist. The collect and Epistle (Phil. 2:5-11) have been used for almost 1500 years. The Passion according to St. Matthew, traditionally the first written, has been assigned to this day since medieval times. The sorrowful nature of the text is reflected in the absence of the normal Gospel acclamations ("Glory to Thee, O Lord" and "Praise to Thee, O Christ").

The title "Maundy Thursday" derives by way of French from the Latin *mandatum*, referring to Christ's new commandment that he gave when He washed the disciples' feet that Thursday evening. This focus is shared with the institution of the Lord's Supper. The two themes do not compete but actually reinforce each other: the love that Christ shows us when He gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins is what motivates us to love our neighbors. As St. John says, we love because He first loved us. Luther summarized this well in his post-communion collect: "We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another." When the pastor washes the feet of members of the congregation, it is a visual reminder of the love and humility that we ought to show to one another.

Even as Holy Week expanded and the various events were placed on their separate days, the sense still remained that it was one large celebration. Hence, many of the services seem to lack finality. On Maundy Thursday, the altar is stripped and the decorations in sanctuary are taken down, symbolizing Christ's arrest in the garden. The congregation leaves in silence, and the action continues the next day.



Holy Week Continued...

By Craig Sproat

Reflecting the solemn and austere nature of the day, the Good Friday liturgy begins directly with the readings, without any introductions or acclamations. The readings, psalms, and canticles reference various aspects of the Passion: Christ in the hands of His enemies (Ps. 140), His atoning sacrifice (Is. 53), His going forth for our salvation and crushing the enemy's head (Hab. 3), and His rising again after three days (Hos. 6). John's Passion account has been traditional for Good Friday since at least the fourth century. After the sermon, there follows the Bidding Prayer. In this form, the minister bids the congregation to pray for specific intentions, after which the pastor, speaking for the congregation, gives such a prayer. Many of the bids and intercessions on this day date from the fifth century.

After the Bidding Prayer, the service continues with devotions meditating on the cross. The Reproaches, a series of accusations by Christ against His people, place the guilt of Christ's death firmly upon us and remind us of the ultimate cost of our sin. The first part of this text dates at least to the ninth century, and is possibly much older since the original refrain was in Greek, hearkening back to a time when both Greek and Latin were the languages of the western Church. After this, the focus shifts, and the texts focus on the triumph of the cross. Good Friday is not a funeral for Christ. We mourn for our sins and the pain it cost Him, but we always do so in light of Easter and the victory won for us on the cross over sin, death, and the devil.

On Holy Saturday, the Church rests with Christ, who on the seventh day rested from His labors.

For centuries, the Easter Vigil (our sunrise service) was THE celebration of Easter. It was an all-night affair, beginning at sundown and continuing with readings, psalms, and prayers until dawn. Then, the catechumens were baptized, emphasizing the triumph of light over darkness and how in Baptism we die and rise again with Christ. Today there are twelve readings, including the creation, the flood, the parting of the Red Sea, and other Old Testament readings about the Passover and how God has saved His people throughout history. Baptism and its motifs run throughout these readings, the prayers, and the hymns.

This service also features the Paschal (Easter) candle. Lit for the first time at the Vigil, this candle represents Christ and leads the congregation into the darkened sanctuary, symbolizing Christ's triumph over darkness in the resurrection. It remains lit at all services during the Easter season and is also lit at all baptisms and funerals. This is a visual reminder of how in Baptism we are crucified with Christ and are raised with Him, and that even when we die, we rest in hope of the final resurrection on the last day.

Superheroes

...and Their Biggest Fans



Daddy / Daughter Dance

HELLO FROM PALS/PTA

We have successfully completed our 3rd quarter at the school. It's been a fun and exciting year so far and we are heading into the home stretch!

We held our two school dances in February and March. The Daddy/Daughter dance was more of a formal attire event for our princesses and they sure did look beautiful! Those girls had a great time dancing. Talk about a lot of energy! The Mother/Son dance was changed to a Superhero theme titled "Superheroes and Their Biggest Fans." It was such a fun time and all the boys dressed in Superhero costumes and T-shirts. The decor was spectacular and included musical chairs, wheelbarrow races and games throughout the gym. I'm confident that the momma's had just as much fun as those boys! We will definitely incorporate both of our dances into the school year as annual events. We had about 40+ in attendance for both.

Now let's talk SPRING FLING! Teachers have all started gathering their basket items or a parent may donate \$20 in lieu of that so that the teacher may shop for the themed basket. I have started collecting donations from the community and following Spring Break, I will be taking the upper elementary children out with me in the afternoons to ask for donations. As, I mentioned in our previous newsletter, please ask for donations while you are out and about having dinner or getting a car wash or oil change. Anyone you know that has a small business or sells any kind of products or services, ask them if they would help our school by donating an item. SPRING CLEANING? If you have items that you think would benefit our silent auction (or live auction) tables, we will also take those. We appreciate the support we receive from parents, church members and community to make the Spring Fling a success each and every year! This is the way that the PAL's can contribute where needed to help our beloved school. We will also gladly take volunteers for setup, cleanup, serving, anything you are willing to do to help!

I am very blessed to serve as your VP of PAL's! God's blessings to each and every one of you!

Leslie Reichert
Pal's Vice-President

From the Principal's Desk...

*"For I know that plans I have for you, "declares the Lord,"
plans to prosper you and not harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future. "
Jeremiah 29:11*

I've often heard the saying, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans!" So much for where I thought I would be this school year. Although becoming a school administrator was not in my plans for this school year, I am, oh so blessed that I serve a God who knows best.

My world has been blessed immeasurably by my position as the principal at St. John's Lutheran School. I now have 86 students to love on, and a group of the most dedicated, hard-working individuals I have ever had the pleasure to spend my days work days with. I thank God for my school family.

To Pastor Bersche and the members of St. John's Church. Thank you for your support and dedication to your school. Your constant support has been the glue that has held us all together over the years, and for that we are so very grateful. If I have not had the pleasure of meeting you yet, please drop in for a visit, come and spend time with the wonderful children and teachers of our school. The doors are always open to you.

To the parents of the students here at St. John's, thank you for choosing our school to shape your children for the future through educating their minds, and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. We realize you have many options available to you, and we greatly appreciate you choosing, and entrusting our school to provide a strong educational foundation for the students we serve.

Teachers and Staff members, you are truly amazing in all that you do. It has been an honor to be your leader. Thank you all for going above and beyond to build and promote the school. Your support means the world to me.

I am blessed beyond measure to be a part of something so amazing. Here's to continued growth, prosperity, and the building of God's Kingdom.

Blessings always,
Ms. Richards



Keah's Farewell Letter

Dear St. John's Family,

I want to thank you all so much for giving me the opportunity of working with and for you as the Financial Manager at St. John's Lutheran School. Working at SJLS has taught me so many useful skills; most importantly the ins and outs of the financial world, budgets (sticking to the budget), detailed record keeping, as well as filing and the power of good communication. I have also done a lot of other very useful things around here like plunging toilets, washing dishes, painting rooms, decluttering, mastering temperature taking of children, as well as cleaning up the messes made when they got sick! All of this and so much more! I want you to know I have loved working here, and even as stressful as financial management can be sometimes, I wake up every morning happy and excited to go to my work.



Keah and Principal Richards on Pajama Day.

As most of you know already, I will be leaving this position at the end of May. My husband Bryan and I have both applied to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. My husband would like to be a Pastor and I am applying to the Deaconess program. For those who do not know us, our goal is to go into the mission field, preferably Africa. After spending 3 years in Malawi, Africa our hearts have longed to return to help the friends and families we became part of while we were there. We prayerfully considered the best route to take in achieving our goals and decided that if we are to go and share God's love to the world, we should study God's word ourselves to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding first.

It is going to be very hard to leave come the end of May. I value the friendships I have made with the staff, the parents, the students and the even deeper relationships with more church members! I pray Blessings over St. John's Lutheran School and Church! You will always be on my heart and mind!

If you would like to follow us in our adventures, please look us up on Facebook or check out our blog LettersFromMalawi.BlogSpot.com

Your Sister in Christ,
Keah Payne

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

School Events are Blue

APRIL 2019

ELDER OF THE MONTH

SPENCER FRAZIER

ASSISTING ELDER

FRED REICHERT

WEEKLY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
08:00am Worship Service	05:45 Handbell	02:00pm WOW	09:00am Quilters	07:00pm In Christ
09:15am Children's Sunday School	06:45pm Choir	Women of the Word	11:00am Bible Study	Alone Bible Study
09:15am Bible Study		06:00pm Al's Tues.	Noon-Bulletin Info. Due	
09:15am Adult Sunday School		Night Bible Class	05:00pm Confirmation Class	
10:30am Worship Service			07:00pm Worship Service	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01	02 07:00pm LWML	03 06:00pm PALS Meeting	04	05	06
07 4th Sunday of Lent <i>Communion 1st Service</i>	08 <i>Testing Starts</i>	09 07:00pm Mission Board Meeting	10 <i>Communion</i>	11	12 <i>Testing Ends</i>	13
14 Palm Sunday <i>Communion</i>	15	16	17 <i>Communion</i>	18 NO SCHOOL-All School Field Trip	19 Good Friday School Closed	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study
21 Easter Sunday <i>Communion</i> 9:15 Easter Egg Hunt	22	23	24 <i>Communion</i>	25 Skate Night Moore, 6-9pm	26 PALS Snack Day	27 SPRING FLING AUCTION!
28 Second Sunday of Easter <i>Communion 2nd Service</i>	29	30 6:00pm School Board Meeting				

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

School Events are Blue

MAY 2019

ELDER OF THE MONTH

FRED REICHERT

ASSISTING ELDER

STEVE HARGROVE

WEEKLY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
08:00am Worship Service	05:45 Handbell	02:00pm WOW	09:00am Quilters	07:00pm In Christ
09:15am Children's Sunday School	06:45pm Choir	Women of the Word	11:00am Bible Study	Alone Bible Study
09:15am Bible Study		06:00pm Al's Tues.	Noon-Bulletin Info. Due	
09:15am Adult Sunday School		Night Bible Class	05:00pm Confirmation Class	
10:30am Worship Service			07:00pm Worship Service	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			01 06:00 PALS Meeting	02	03 Track Meet	04
05 3rd Sunday of Easter Communion 1st Service	06	07 07:00pm LWML	08 Advent Service Communion	09	10	11
	.. ~ " .. ~ Teacher Appreciation Week ~ " ~ ..					
12 4th Sunday of Easter Communion 2nd Service	13	14 07:00pm Mission Board Meeting	15 Advent Service Communion PALS/PTA Appreciation Day	16	17	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study
19 5th Sunday of Easter Communion 1st Service Sunday School Children Singing	20 6:30pm Elementary Graduation	21 9:30am Pre-K Ceremony	22 Advent Service Communion	23 Skate Night at Skate Moore from 6-9pm	24 Super Kids Day! LAST DAY of School, done at 12:00pm	25
26 6th Sunday of Easter Communion 2nd Service	27	28 Teacher In Service Day	29 Communion Teacher In Service Day	30 Ascension	31	