

St. James News

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The Promise of the Empty Tomb

The Word of the Lord: Matthew 28:2, *There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.*

Our Lenten Pilgrimage reaches its climax on Easter day. It was a sacred journey, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane and going from there to a night court, attending a Roman tribunal in session, walking the way of sorrows, gathering at the hill shaped like a skull, standing reverently beneath the cross where the Prince of life and Lord of Glory perfectly finished His task and effected full atonement. Pious hands took His body from the cross and laid Jesus in a tomb, "one in which no one had been laid" (Luke 23:53). He who was numbered with the transgressors made His grave "with the rich in His death," as the prophet foretold (Isaiah 53:9).

Early on the first Easter morning when the women came to the sepulcher they found an amazing sight. "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it." (Matthew 28:2). When we look at the empty tomb, we see that the stone is not merely unhinged or set askew. The stone is "rolled back from the door." Therefore the tomb is open. We can readily look inside. What does the empty tomb tell us?

Out of the grotto now open, Jesus had come. With His glorified body, He had been able to pass right through the grave-clothes, without disturbing them, right on through the barricaded tomb, for His glorified body was no longer shackled by time and space, the stone was rolled away, not to let Jesus out, but to let the disciples in. Jesus had come forth in fulfillment of His prophecy: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (John 2:19). "The temple He had spoken of was His body." (John 2:21). He "was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Jesus was all that He claimed to be: The Son of God and God the Son, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Sanhedrin had condemned Him because, as they said, "You, a mere man, claim to be God" (John 10:33). His resurrection proved His claim to deity to be true.

Out of the empty tomb came the assurance of completed redemption. On the cross the Lord had said: "It is finished." Everything that needed to be done had been done for our salvation. The prophecies were fulfilled. The import of the sacrifices became crystal clear. Shadows turned into substance. The debt had been paid, justice satisfied, redemption accomplished. An angel broke the seal, but Jesus' rising was God's official seal upon a work fully and satisfactorily done. Out of the tomb came the assurance of eternal life for all believers. With the resurrection of Jesus Christ came the New Testament Church. Through the centuries and millennia, it has grown by the power of God's word (Romans 10:17). True, the formal birthday of the church is Pentecost, but the Holy Spirit who was there in the tongues of fire was sent by the Father and the risen Lord. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation-stone, the cornerstone, and the touchstone of the church.

Out of the empty tomb comes hope. Death is not an abrupt chasm to life's paths, the contradiction of peoples' hope, the realization of our fears. Death is the beginning of our glorious existence, and this one will not be temporary like our travels on earth. This existence will be absolute and complete. Its glory consists not only in continued life, but life with Christ. He assures us: "Where I am, My servant also will be" (John 12:26). "We will be with the Lord forever." (I Thessalonians 4:17). To be with the Lord is the essence of heaven.

The empty tomb is a beautiful sign of God's redeeming love. What a great God we have to worship on Easter morning. Unlike the world's religions whose leaders lie as dust in their graves, our Savior's tomb is empty. He is risen, as He said. Because of this we can joyfully put Jesus at the center of our lives, trusting that He will give us meaning and healing, peace and power in the face of death and despair. God grant that we may know and believe this great, good news until that day, when we will see Jesus face to face and live with Him into all eternity. Amen.

Pastor Nirva

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Church Attendance

Wednesday, February 24	149 & 81
Sunday, February 28	139 & 232
Wednesday, March 3	138 & 58
Sunday, March 7	186 & 221
Wednesday, March 10	157 & 53
Sunday, March 14	127 & 168
Wednesday, March 17	174 & 48
Sunday, March 21	183 & 242

Communion Attendance

Sunday, February 28	86
Wednesday, March 3	47
Sunday, March 7	139
Sunday, March 14	84
Sunday, March 21	143

Baptisms

Alexander James Paul Ogle infant son of Ryan and Lisa (Gabbert) Ogle on March 7, 2010.

Payton Rose Schwindel infant daughter of Andrew and Ashley (Bergquist) Schwindel on March 14, 2010.

Funerals

Virgil Birkholz on March 18, 2010. He had died on March 14 at the age of 77 years, 5 months and 4 days.

Lois (Cochran) Berg on March 23, 2010. She had died on March 19 at the age of 68 years, 5 months and 23 days.

Leona (Weege) Mielke on March 25, 2010. She had died on March 22 at the age of 89 years, 4 months and 20 days.

Transfers In

Mark Leaf from Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Delano.



SCRIPTURE QUIZ

(answers below)

1. Fill in the blank in the following words of Jesus to His disciples: "For the _____ always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always."
2. What did Judas do for 30 pieces of silver?
3. What event do we remember on Good Friday?
4. For how many hours did the sky darken even though it was day time when Jesus was crucified – 1, 3, 7, 8, or 24?
5. Over what length of time did Jesus appear to His disciples after His resurrection?

Answers: 1. Poor (John 12:8) 2. Betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14) 3. The crucifixion (Jesus' death on the cross) 4. 3 (Matthew 27:45) 5. 40 days (Acts 1:3)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The March meeting of the LWML began with a delicious potluck supper. Carolyn Stoll led us in a very fitting devotion. We had a short business meeting and then we began our annual work night. Easter cards were made for the Care Center residents. Many hands worked on tying our "injeanious" quilts which will be available for sale at our annual fall dinner. We will be displaying some in church, so you can be deciding which one you would like as your own. The proceeds of these will go to support our mission projects.

Our April meeting will feature a guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to join this fun group of women who serve the Lord with gladness.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in April: Marlys Horsch, (2), Mildred Yager (3), James Burkett (7), Helen Gruenhagen (Mrs. Ken) (8), Verna Glessing (18), Norman Gulso (19), Carolyn Wackler (21), Harriet Kraft (24), Orvella Doering (25), Gary Engel (26), Lloyd Westphal, James Wackler (28), Norma Koosman.

Please contact the church office if a birthday is ever omitted or lists the wrong date.

Please join us for the **LITCHFIELD ZONE LWML SPRING RALLY**

Saturday, April 17th, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
at St. James Lutheran Church
1000 7th Ave.
Howard Lake, MN

Members of First Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN will share experiences from a 2-week mission trip to three villages in Uganda, Africa.

Come and enjoy hearing about their exciting work: church roofing, building construction, ministry to women and children and more.

Gifts from the heart will be clothing for Orphan Grain Train:

New or gently used infant and children's clothing,
Summer clothes for all ages,
New shoes for all ages.

Containers will be available for you to sort clothing as you arrive.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

The Mission Following the Resurrection

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’” Matthew 28:10

This month begins with the greatest celebration that mankind can truly rejoice about. We celebrate the fact that after suffering and dying on the cross for our sins Jesus has risen from the dead. This monumental event in world history changes our lives for all eternity. Now we can be certain that just as Jesus has risen from the dead we too will rise from the dead (John 14:19). The day will arrive when the living Lord Jesus will return to this earth and raise our bodies out of the graves. Then He will grant to all who believe in Him eternal life in heaven. Jesus has suffered for our sins, He has overcome Satan, and He has defeated death. Through faith in Jesus the victory of the resurrection now belongs to us.

But the story did not end on that first Easter. In the Bible verse printed above Jesus spoke to the women who came to the tomb on Easter morning. The first words that He spoke to them were words of assurance and words of mission. Our risen Lord sent His followers upon a mission. Jesus said: “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” It was the wish of Jesus that His followers would go and

tell the good news of the resurrection and invite others to come and see Him. That desire of our Lord still burns in His heart today. Christ has risen and sent us on a mission. He has sent us to go and tell others the good news of the victory over sin, Satan, and death. He has sent us to go and invite others to come and see Jesus – not in Galilee but in church and in heaven. Jesus has risen and

has now sent us to go and invite others to come with us to church and encounter Jesus. For in church we hear the Word of God preached and taught. Our faith, that our Lord has paid the price for our sin upon the cross and has risen from the dead for us, is strengthened in church. We are equipped for Christian living and sent on a mission by our risen Lord.

So what is your mission? It is to tell and invite. It is to seek out the lost and bring them to Jesus who can save them from eternal torment. It is to reach out to those people around you and bring them to our Lord Jesus. It may be someone who has grown up with a church background but has fallen away. It may be someone who has never known Jesus. It may even involve reaching out to a fellow church member who

**What is
your
mission?**

has lost their way and drifted away from the church. Regardless of whom it may be, the Lord Jesus has risen and sent you on a mission – to tell and to invite. This Easter season as you celebrate the resurrection of Jesus may God grant to you a renewed zeal and mission to go, tell, and invite others.

Jesus has risen from the dead. He is alive still to this day. He will be with you on this mission and He will one day raise you up and be with you forever in heaven. Now go on the mission our risen Lord has sent you to do.

Pastor Schoenfeld

Sharing God's Love

Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. Faith is the belief that God will do what is right. God is always near and always available, just waiting for your touch. So let Him know. Demonstrate your devotion:

- Write a letter.
- Ask forgiveness.
- Be baptized.
- Feed the hungry.
- Pray.
- Teach
- Go.

Do something that demonstrates faith. For faith with no effort is no faith at all. GOD WILL RESPOND. He has never rejected a genuine gesture of faith. Never.

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.

Blessings from the Evangelism Committee

From Our Parish Nurse

He is not here – He has risen, just as He said.
Luke 24:6. Remember, Jesus said, *I am returning to my Father, and your Father, to my God and your God.*
John 20:17.

With springtime, most of us feel different – our attitude becomes more positive, we think about doing some of the things we have put off over the cold winter months and we feel like getting outside to at least breathe some fresh air. It is an opportunity to start walking, enjoy the new life that is appearing all around us. We also think about how we can help someone else with lawn work, maybe start a small garden or help with other tasks around our homes and community and church.

Here are a few Natural Energy Boosters:

1. **Take in the sun's rays** using a good sun screen. Vitamin D is a great cold fighter, cuts your breast cancer risk and boosts your mood and energy level. Thirty minutes is all it takes, whether you get outdoors or just open the blinds at your office.
2. **Eating a cup of strawberries** has 130% of your daily requirements of vitamin C, the mineral that is crucial for turning fat into energy. Without C, your body will use protein or carbs, which leads to lactic acid buildup in your muscles. Making you feel slow and tired.
3. **Remember how good DARK chocolate is** for you. The next time your energy takes a dive, reach for a square of dark chocolate. Its flavanols fight fatigue and improve mental sharpness, according to scientists at Northumbria University in Newcastle, England. Flavanols dilate blood vessels, allowing more blood to reach the brain – and that keeps you alert. You can also get flavanols from red wine, broccoli, blueberries, tea and onions.
4. **Lend a hand to someone.** You know how good it feels to help someone. You can actually get a “helper’s high” – rush of pump-you-up endorphins that lasts for hours – when you volunteer, says Kimberly Kingsley, author of *THE ENERGY CURE: How to Recharge Your Life 30 Seconds at a Time.* So whether you head-up a

church committee, community event or watch a neighbor’s children while the mother runs errands, you will get a huge benefit too.

5. **NAP TIME.** A quick nap will help you beat the blahs all daylong. A study from Loughborough University in Leicestershire, England, found that a 20 minute afternoon snooze is more effective at combating drowsiness than sleeping in and it actually provides a longer-lasting power surge than a small cup of coffee. So if you have the opportunity, take that short nap, chances are you will be much more effective the rest of the day.
6. **Straighten-up.** Slouching makes muscles work harder to hold your body upright, which leads to fatigue, according to the International Chiropractors Association in Arlington, Virginia. Just 15 minutes of slumping strains the muscles in the back, shoulders and neck. The next time you feel yourself start to slump, take a deep breath in, lift your head toward the sky and roll your shoulders back.
7. **Oatmeal.** Start your day with a healthy and hearty bowl of oatmeal. Remember the steel oats recipe I included in an earlier article? Dig out that recipe and get back on track with all the good ingredients contained in oatmeal. This grain contains magnesium which is a heart-healthy substance. Add magnesium filled almonds and your day is ready to begin.
8. **Determination.** You have the choice to determine whether you want to be healthy and happy. I hope you choose healthy and happy.

I was going through some old papers and found this that I had written a long time ago and decided it was fitting for now.

You Are God's Elective

In the midst of toil and bustle,
When you're using all your muscle.
Don't forget to keep perspective-
You-yes, you are God's elective.
It's so easy to be snappy,
Lashing out, instead of happy.
Don't forget to keep perspective-
You-yes, you are God's elective.

Happy Easter! Happy Springtime!

In Christian Love,
Darlene Lind, RN

Please note that St. James will have a CPR and AED Training Session on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 in the church.

Stewardship

"April showers bring May flowers" is an old saying that is fairly well known to adults and children as well. It is very true that God blesses His creation with rain which causes seeds to sprout and grow upon the earth. This blessing of rain is something good that God lavishes upon all people, regardless of whether or not they are believers in Jesus as their Savior. And, because of the blessing of rain, seedtime and harvest will prevail and the earth will yield its increase and provide food for all God's creatures. Not only does rain bring forth flowers but also the fruits and grains from gardens, vineyards, orchards and fields. God is good and His mercy endures forever. His rain will come not only in April but throughout the growing season.

We rejoice and are glad that God takes such bountiful care of our physical needs. That is important, but in April we will celebrate a special day which reminds us that God also takes care of all our spiritual needs. That day is Easter, a day set aside to celebrate the victory of Jesus over sin, death and the devil. As the Bible teaches, because He lives we shall also live. What great, good news that is to celebrate and share with others who also need to hear some good news.

Why does God lavish such rich physical blessings upon us? Dr. Martin Luther explains it so well when in the Small Catechism he wrote: *"All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!"*

Why does God lavish upon us such rich spiritual blessings because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? Again, in the Small Catechism Luther wrote: *"that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!"*

God lavishes His rich blessings upon us to manage and use in ways that honor Him and bless others as well as ourselves. This is what we mean when we talk about Christian stewardship. God's stewards freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes. This management includes taking care of God's creation so that the physical needs of all God's creatures are satisfied. It also includes sharing the good news of hope and salvation through Jesus who died for us and rose again.

A blessed Easter to you all!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear Reverend Ken Klaus on The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

April 4-Playing Second Fiddle-The reality of Christ and His resurrection enables Pastor Ken Klaus to write one of his most difficult sermons. (Luke 24:11-12)

April 11-Nothing But the Truth-Many say they long for truth, but don't know what to do with it when it's set down right in front of them. (John 20:27-31)

April 18-Do You Love Me?-When Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" our answer might be, "Yes, but not that much." Thank God, we have a Savior Who lives and forgives. (John 21:15)

April 25-"TBA"-Guest Speaker

2010 PTL PORK CHOP DINNER

Sunday, April 18, 2010
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. James Lutheran Church and School
1000 6th Avenue
Howard Lake, MN 55349

Menu includes:

Pork Chops

Prepared by the Wright County Pork Producers

Scalloped Potatoes

Corn ❖ Coleslaw ❖ Apple Sauce

Rolls ❖ Dessert ❖ Beverage

Adults: \$8.00

4-12 years old: \$5.00

3 and under: FREE

Extra Chop: \$2.00

ALL ARE WELCOME!

School News

Sing to the Lord a New Song!

God has been sharing His love with us during this Lenten season. Being reminded of His suffering and death for us is incomprehensible. The promise of resurrection comes to us in the signs of new life outside. Many perennials are up and will soon be blooming. (The crocus are blooming!!!)

The students and teachers have been sharing God's love in the gift of songs to St. John's churches in Howard Lake and Buffalo. Both congregations shared their appreciation for the smiles and quality of singing. Thank you to Mr. Dahl and Mrs. Glessing for the guiding and directing of the children.

A bit anxious for Summer??? Students, faculty and parents celebrated with a beach party. They participated in games, face painting, leis and food in the gymnasium. There were no reports of sunburns.

Third grade students traveled to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for an adventure in tapping maple trees. They learned how to look for a maple tree that is at least 10 inches in diameter. The instructor let them drill a hole, hang a bag and watch the sap flow. It can take up to 40 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. It was a perfect day for the flowing of sap.

Two items that are coming up soon are the used book sale that will be held on April 18 during the pork chop

dinner. The dinner will be held in the fellowship hall from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Donations of books would be appreciated for our book sale. Everyone is invited to enjoy the delicious dinner and bring a friend too.

Secondly, the students and faculty have planted some flowers, vegetables and herbs.

The sale of these plants will be held after church services. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and weekly school newsletters.

Some perennials will also be for sale at that time. Anyone who purchases bottled water by the case is asked to save the cardboard boxes for us to use at the plant sale.

BOOK SALE/FUNDRAISER

The school is planning to hold a used book sale in conjunction with the PTL Dinner Sunday, April 18.

For the next few weeks we will be accepting book donations from any families within our church, school or community. Please see the following guidelines for the types of books we are looking to collect.

- Books in good to excellent condition
- Hard or soft covered books
- Sports, Children's, Cookbooks, Adult, Christian, etc...
- NO magazines (including National Geographic)
- NO encyclopedias or reference books older than 2000

Donated books can be dropped off at the school or church offices. Please call, if you have any questions.

Come to the Spring Concert

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 PM

at St. James Church

All the Church and School Choirs
will perform **songs of worship and**
Praise

Youth News

Thank You

Thank you to all who came to our Soup Suppers for a time of food and fellowship. Your support is very much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed it. We do apologize for the weeks that we ran out of one thing or another but are very thankful for the good attendance. We sure hope no one went away hungry.

Thank you and God's blessings!

Easter Breakfast

Come to the school cafeteria on Easter Sunday, April 4 from 7 to 10 AM. A free will offering will be accepted for the breakfast of Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Sausage Links, Desserts and Beverages.

Join us for the
Easter
Celebra-
-tion!

BLOODMOBILE AT ST. JAMES

The local Bloodmobile will be held in the St. James School Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, April 20 from 1 to 7:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to donate.

Sunday School

"Hosanna,
Hosanna" was
sung on Palm
Sunday by our Sunday
School students. Waving
the palms and singing in
church begins Holy Week at St.
James. We are looking forward to
learning the Easter story. After
learning about Jesus' death and suffering
the resurrection story makes us happy again.
The teachers always make Easter extra special
with activities and songs.

Come join us on Easter and every Sunday!

Jesus died on the cross,
but He is alive today. Look
around. You can feel His
presence everywhere.