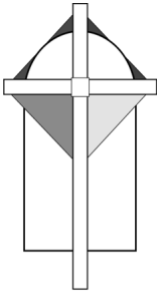




He is
RISEN



ST MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

April 2023

Valley, Nebraska

www.StMarksValleyNE.com

402.359.2315

from the Pastor...



A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

As we are steeped in preparing for the many services that we will be holding from Palm Sunday to Holy Week to Easter, it is of necessity that I find myself often thinking about the cross. An instrument of cruelest

torture as applied by the Romans, a symbol of death and shame for the Jewish people whom it was used against, and yet...in great paradox, it is a symbol of our God's deep love for us—of God's rescue, planned from of old and carried out faithfully by God's son, Jesus. We are always confronted by paradoxes in our Christian faith—perhaps I shouldn't be surprised by them—where weakness is power and foolishness is wisdom—where an instrument of death, brings life.

I find myself musing about all Jesus faced for our sakes as we contrive to 'virtually enter into' the events of that last fateful week of Jesus' life—for the events of his last week of life are at the *center* of our Christian faith. Little did anyone know the enormity of the battle which Jesus would face for us that week—facing sin and eternal death for our sakes and snatching us out of death's grasp forever—it makes David's battle with Goliath pale in comparison!

C. S. Lewis, writer and famous Christian apologist said that either Jesus is a Lunatic, a Liar, or the Lord—there are no other options. It is true, either Jesus is what he said her was, the Son of God, the Messiah, our Savior- sent by God to wage this battle for us—or he is a madman!

Scripture reports how powerful Jesus was. His followers and disciples witnessed many miracles—that he stilled storms and waves with a word, fed thousands from almost nothing, healed broken, blind and deaf people, exorcised demons who knew and recognized him, healed people who simply touched his clothing, even raised people from the dead by calling their name...if he did all these things and more, including forgiving sins- then truly, he *must* have been God, the Savior and Redeemer!

If that is so, that Jesus was God and had **all** this power, answer me this—do you *really* think that 3 nails, even if they were more like spikes—(big nails!) could really have kept him there, attached to that cross? Nothing in all of creation could have kept Jesus on that cross! So, if they could not indeed hold him, what then held him there?

Jesus' great love and his mercy kept him there on that cross that day. Jesus' immense desire for us to have life in all its wonder and abundance eternally with him, kept him there. His great and merciful heart held him there that day—full of steadfast love and faithfulness--that kept him there—certainly not those puny nails!

On Easter we celebrate the wonder of our Lord and his saving acts undertaken for us. We thankfully witness and bathe in his reflected glory as our Risen resurrected Lord.

So, the question that is asked by the unknowing city crowds on Palm Sunday—“who is this” is one that needs to be answered—by each of us. I cannot answer the question for you. The answer must arise from each heart—and then, we must live forward, into that answer.

May God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless our observances and celebrations of these Holy Days— and the difficult and significant acts that rescued us. May we faithfully walk with our Lord, and gratefully celebrate the wondrous gift of love and life He has given us.

A Blessed and Wondrous Easter to you all!
In Jesus name,
Pastor Barbara

from the PMA...

PANCAKES FOR SUPPER

As a child, we were always served breakfast. Usually cold or hot cereal. On special occasions, we had pancakes or waffles. I think what made pancakes special is that someone (my mom) took the time and energy to prepare them and make sure we each had what we wanted. With a family of five, there was always a time to wait for your pancake to travel from griddle to plate. Now, I rarely eat breakfast on a regular basis. But, I do enjoy an occasional supper of pancakes or waffles. It seems to bring back such wonderful memories of being loved and cared for! Sitting around the table with family enjoying a meal together.

Perhaps that is why the Lord's Supper is so special to me. We gather around the table as family and partake of something that was prepared for us, the sacraments. Jesus took the time, energy and care to provide for us a meal like no other. As we gather each Sunday, may you remember the sacrifice that our Lord made for us so that we may feast together.

Karen



EASTER LILIES

If you would like to share a lily for Easter with the congregation, please bring it on Saturday before Easter and place it on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Someone will place the lilies Sanctuary for our Easter celebration. We ask that you take your lily home following the Easter worship service. Please make sure that your name is on your lily.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**This is a synopsis of the Council meeting held on
March 7st, 2023.**

- 16 Solar clocks will be purchased at a cost of \$24.95 apiece. These will be used to replace the other clocks so that they will all have the same time.
- Deborah Hascall, Sharon Renshaw will be the signatures on the accounts at the First National Bank in Valley. The WELCA, Men In Mission, Treasurer WELCA and Pastoral Emergency accounts are an entity unto themselves, so Council has no say so on their signatures.
- The Council meeting be moved to the second Tuesday of the month beginning April 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Mark's will do the Pancake Feed again this year at Valley Days, August 12.
- Pictures for the Pictorial Directory will be take on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 13, 14 and 15 from 2 to 8:30 p.m.
- Spring Outdoor Clean Up, April 29 at 9:30 a.m.

- The young adults will be sponsoring a Game Night here at St. Mark's on Saturday, April 1, 2023.
- St. Mark's will donate \$100 to DC West Post Prom Party.

A PRAYER FOR ST MARK'S PASTOR AND COUNCIL

God of hope, open the eyes of all who lead at St. Mark's to more fully appreciate the sacrifice made by Christ on the cross and help others experience it through our lives. Amen.

APRIL NEWS FOR WOMEN OF ST. MARK'S

FAITH CIRCLE NEWS

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on **April 4 at 1 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Desiree Katsampes is the Bible study leader of our GATHER magazine selection, and hostess is Sandy Gunnerson. We will discuss the Lenten Soup Supper and plans for future events and our quilting projects.. Please feel free to join us!

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

We met on March 6th with 6 members in attendance. We agreed that we would like to hold a Salad Luncheon in June & Soup Supper in Oct. to raise funds for our Charitable Giving this year.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 3rd at 6:30** with Teri Dreessen leading our Study and Bert Harrifeld serving as Hostess.

JOY/PEACE CIRCLE NEWS

QUILTERS will meet on April 10 (Monday) and April 27 (Thursday) from 1-4 p.m. to complete more quilts. Our goal this year is 30 by the end of October. If you can tie a knot or cut a thread, we can use your talents! Come be the *Ties That Bind!*



American Red Cross

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Valley Community

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 22, 2023





7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VALLEY to schedule an appointment

Questions...

Contact Sharon at (402) 669-3588

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Day/Date	Time	Theme
 Palm Sunday April 2	9:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship/ Communion
 Maundy Thursday April 6	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion
 Good Friday April 7	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship
 Easter Sunday April 9	9:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship/ Communion

ALL SERVICES ARE IN PERSON AND ALSO LIVE STREAMED.

SCRIPTURES FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL 2023

April 2

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Processional Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

Responsive Reading Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

April 6

Maundy Thursday

First Reading Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10 11-14

Responsive Reading Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel Reading John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 7

Good Friday

First Reading Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Responsive Reading Psalm 22

Second Reading Hebrews 10:16-25

Gospel Reading John 18:1—19:42

April 9

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter

Processional Gospel.	John 20:1-18
First Reading	Acts: 10:34-43
Responsive Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Second Reading	Colossians 3:1-4

April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Responsive Reading	Psalm 16
Second Reading	1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel Reading	John 20:19-31

April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Responsive Reading	Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
Second Reading	1 Peter 1:17-23
Gospel Reading	Luke 24:13-35

April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading	Acts 2:42-47
Responsive Reading	Psalm 23
Second Reading	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel Reading	John 10:1-10

Birthdays in April



It has been requested to have personal birthdates put in the newsletter. If we are going to do this we need you to be sure that we have your birth date.

Please let the church office know your date if you have not already done so.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING"

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Bobbi Munson | 20 – Ann Riepl |
| 2 – Linda Lewis | 21 – Calla Janke |
| 4 – Lori Dyas | 21 – Susan McKie |
| 8 – Jacob Richmond | 24 – Mary Caffey |
| 8 – Bobette Volquardsen | 24 – Marv Trofholz |
| 9 – Carmen Dau | 25 – Nicholas Frost |
| 10 – Morgan Kerwin | 25 – Roberta Harrifeld |
| 10 – Scott Mayer | 26 – Hannah Haun |
| 10 – Sydney Mayer | 26 – Joseph Haun |
| 12 – Ronnie Boardman | 26 – Aiden Oltjenbruns |
| 13 – Troy Hardman | 27 – Addison Welding |
| 13 – Susie Sip | 28 – Lisa Wittgren |
| 18 – Nick Stanzel | 30 – Brian Foutch |
| 19 – Noelle Josoff | 30 – Hannah Gutierrez |

Visit our website at stmarksvalleyne.com
Cell Numbers: Pastor Barbara Oshlo – 202-5495
Jan Reis – 490-2330