

The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church — Streetsboro, Ohio

April 2019



I was reading on-line about Easter (looking for some sermon ideas) and ran across this statement in Wikipedia: *“Although the event of the resurrection itself is not described in the Bible, many artists have depicted the scene.”* It showed such a depiction by the German artist, Matthias Grünewald.

My first reaction was: *“Not a single eyewitness account of the resurrection event?”* Then came my second reaction: *“What is to be made of that fact?”*

There is considerable eyewitness testimony to the crucifixion — all four Gospels give accounts. They are varied enough to ensure that we do not see them as one, fabricated, harmonized account. They really must be the collected memories of many witnesses to the horrible events of Good Friday.

There is one brief description of the events surrounding the resurrection. Matthew records: *“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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”* [28:2-4] But this is not per se an actual eyewitness account of Jesus coming out of the tomb.

So I’m still considering why there is no such account? Even if the disciples were not in the garden when it happened, there must have been a soldier or two they could have convinced to provide the details. Matthew had to have gotten his information from somebody.

What we have instead of actual play-by-play details of the emergence of Jesus from a cave is the many eyewitness accounts of His post-resurrection appearances. St. Paul can point to more than five hundred who fit that category of witness.

Apparently, for the New Testament Church, that Jesus rose is far more important than how He did it. I think that must be true for us, as well.

In part, because we may not be able to comprehend how it was done; we cannot comprehend death and eternity. But more to the issue of faith, if we knew how, then the resurrection becomes little more than magic; it is a trick that is known only to those with insider knowledge. When we have evidence only that it was done, we must give ourselves in trust — first to Jesus who did it, and then to those witnesses who tell us.

Who first told you that Christ is risen? A parent or grandparent? A Sunday School teacher? A pastor? Did you trust their witness, or did you demand more proof? Thomas wanted proof; Jesus gave Thomas the proof requested. Thomas thought that, without such proof, he could not believe. You and I are evidence that he was wrong.

We had a report of the “Jesus Tomb.” Movie producer, James Cameron, and director, Simcha Jacobovici, aired a “documentary on The Discovery Channel in which they claimed they had found

the bones of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and their son, Judah. They claimed that DNA evidence “scientifically proved” it was Jesus and Mary, and that all leading scholars and archeologists agreed with their findings. Bunk!

Most scholars have come forward in the aftermath to dispute, renounce, or even ridicule these claims. The DNA evidence is meaningless (there’s nothing to compare it to); the “find” is more than 25 years old (hardly new!); the documentary was nothing but a hodgepodge of old heresies, myths, and fabricated scenes of the “dig.” Yet, on the heels of *The DaVinci Code*, many were ready to say, “There must be something to this!” One question: “According to *The DaVinci Code*, Mary Magdalene wound up in France, and was entombed there; how did her bones then get back to Jerusalem?”

I raise this question to show how ridiculous are the premises of both the book and the TV documentary. But I also want us to confront the reality that faith does not rely on, nor is it dispelled by, such “proof.” The disciples were first told that Jesus had risen. Luke tells us “. . . it seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe . . .” [24:11] Even seeing the Risen Christ did not at first convince them: they “were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.” [Luke 24:37]

All we have is the witness that Christ is risen. But that witness is what shapes us. The Holy Spirit works through that witness to make the reality of Christ’s resurrection come alive in us. The “proof” we are provided is the Spirit’s gift of faith that enlivens us. As one anonymous poet said well:

*How do I know that Christ is risen?
What proof have I to give?
He touched my life one blessed day
And I began to live.*

*How do I know he left the tomb
That morning long ago?
I met Him just this morning
And my heart is still aglow.*

*How do I know that endless life
He gained for me that day?
His life within is proof enough
Of immortality.*

REMINDER!! Our Sunday worship time changes on April 7 as we begin our new schedule — 10:00 AM. Please mark your calendars.

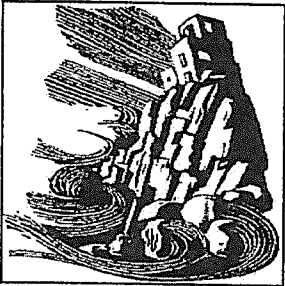
Our Worship This Month



Lent IV — March 31 — JUDGE NOT

Texts: Isaiah 11:2-4; Psalm 32; Romans 2:1-11; Matthew 7:1-5

We live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

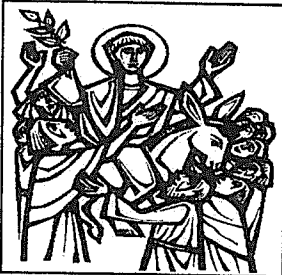


Lent V — April 7 — BUILD *on* ROCK

Texts: Isaiah 51:1-3; Psalm 126; I Corinthians 3:10-15; Matthew 7:24-27

We build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us that the only foundation is Himself, the Rock of our salvation. On Him alone we build.

In Holy Week we continue the journey we began on Ash Wednesday, following the teachings of our Lord in The Sermon on the Mount, and tying them to the events that culminate in our Lord's death and resurrection.



Palm Sunday — April 14 — ASK, SEEK, *Knock*

Texts: Matthew 21:1-9; Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 31:9-16; I John 5:13-15; Matthew 7:7-11

The crowd that cheered Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem were seeking a different kind of rescuer when they shouted, "Hosanna! Save Us!" Jesus teaches us, in word and action, how we ought to seek from God.



Maundy Thursday — April 18 — The *Golden* RULE

Texts: Leviticus 19:13-17; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-25; Matthew 7:12

Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means mandate or command. On that night before His death Jesus gave His disciples "a new commandment" which echoes the teaching from The Sermon on the Mount we call "The Golden Rule."



Good Friday — April 19 — THE TREE *and its Fruit*

Texts: Genesis 3:1-15; Psalm 22; Colossians 2:13-15; Matthew 7:15-20; John 18:1-19:42

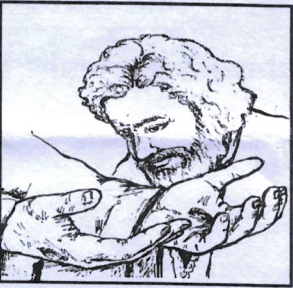
Jesus teaches that good trees produce good fruit. The cross is often referred to as a tree on which Jesus was hung. That awful tree produced such wonderful fruit, it is sometimes hard for us to comprehend how wonderful it is, and what an awful price was demanded of Jesus.



Easter Sunday — April 21 — TREASURES in *Heaven*

Texts: Deuteronomy 26:17-19; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; I Corinthians 15:51-58; Matthew 28:1-10; Matthew 6:19-21

The heart of the Gospel is the resurrection of Christ. Jesus taught us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,” and then went on to proclaim, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Are our hearts centered on the heart of the Gospel?



Easter II — April 28

Sermon: “*Faith, Doubt, Fear & Love*”

Texts: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

In Thomas’ encounter with the Risen Lord, we learn about our own reaction to the empty tomb.

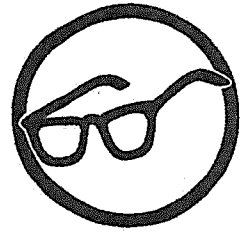
Our Midweek Lenten series concludes in April with the last two installments of the series “Let My People Go” drawn from the Book of Exodus./

April 4 — Lenten Midweek IV — “Mine!” (Exodus 20:1–17)

April 11 — Lenten Midweek V — “Digging Ourselves into a Hole” (Exodus 32:1–14)

TIME CHANGE

LOOK!!

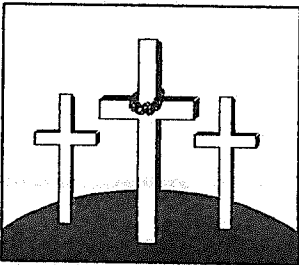


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! SERVICE TIMES WILL BE AT 10:00 A.M. STARTING APRIL 7TH. PLEASE LET FRIENDS AND FAMILY KNOW ABOUT THE TIME CHANGE!!

SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Join us for soup and more on Thursdays April 4th and 11th at 6:30 p.m. with a Lenten service following at 7:30 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to be one of our soup makers or other items.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



10:00 A.M.—Sunday, April 14—Palm Sunday with procession of palms and communion

7:30 P.M.—Thursday, April 18—Maundy Thursday with stripping of the altar

7:30 P.M.—Friday, April 19—Good Friday worship service

10:00 A.M.—Saturday, April 20—Set up of the sanctuary for Easter and Pancake Breakfast preparations

7:30-9:30 A.M.—Sunday, April 21—Pancake Breakfast

9:00 A.M.—Children Activities with Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 A.M.—Easter Service

READERS & USHERS

We would love to have all of our members participate in our worship services so please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for readers and ushers for the worship services. March and April's sign up sheets are available now on the bulletin board. Thank you for volunteering!

READERS

April 7-
April 14-
April 21-
April 28-

USHERS

Steve Manijak and Del Gross

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Abigail Ayers	Madeline Ayers	Trudy Ayers	Deb Earle
Edna Earle	Cory Hautmann	Linda Hautmann	Pastor Just
Lorene Kozar	Joe Lenno	Ken Nicely II	Ken Nicely III
Kenny Nicely IV	Carol Poston	Heather Poston	Amy Rohaley
Ron Stenglein	Agnes Whinnie	Rory Wolff	Barb Alcorn
Michael Birchfield	Michael Brooks	Warren Burgess	Leona Corban
Scott Corban	Tom Corban	Christine Combs	David Drahos
Billy Earle	Martin Goss	Hanna & Zane	Steve Kolar
Brad Kozar	Suzanne Latham	Mike Lynch	Frank Manijak
Finnley Mercer	Sammy & Denise	Arthur Robinson	Mildred Slanina
Lad Svadba	Dyllynn Szcaks	Tara Vargo	
Our College Students—Grace Rohaley and Stephen Nicely			
Our College Graduate—Haley Rohaley			

If there is anyone you would like to add or delete from this list, please let Marla Manijak know. You can reach her at 330-626-5120 or fill out one of the cards in the pew and put in offering plate.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Prayers for **Edna Earle** who is recovering from her heart attack and has been diagnosed with throat cancer. She was recently in the hospital receiving blood transfusions. Her address is 9769 S.R. 43, Streetsboro, 44241

Continued prayers for Madelyn Ayers who is still recovering from her leg surgeries. She is doing great!

Continued prayers for our cancer survivors **Lorene Kozar and Amy Rohaley**. To send thinking of you cards the addresses are for Lorene, 681 Sweetnut Ct., Streetsboro, 44241 and for Amy, 2187 Summers Ave., Streetsboro, 44241.

Continued prayers for those who have moved. **Marcy Harrison** is doing great after a fall she took! Her address is 11500 Huffman Rd, #313, Parma, OH 44130. Our dear sweet Agnes Whinnies address is 219 Locust Ave., Fairmont, WV 26554.

Continued prayers for our shut-ins:

Mr. Steve Gerhard
The Gardens of Western Reserve
9975 Greentree Parkway
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4328

Mrs. Audrey Holland
4552 Aspen Lake Road
Apartment 102
Brunswick, OH 44212-4582

Mrs. Eunice Haschak
Avenue at Macedonia
9730 Valley View Road
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

16-Wendy Weber
18-Jodie Earle
19-Haley Rohaley
19-aggie Blankenship



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Mike Phillips
20-Stephen Nicely
24-Kari Earle
30-Haley Rohaley

1 + 1 + 1 giving

We, along with other English District congregations, are raising money to help our missionaries spread the good news of Jesus. 1+1+1 means \$1 per member each Sunday. There is a plastic box in the narthex under the bulletins for you to place your \$1 each Sunday. We emptied the box at the end of January and are ready to fill it again! Thank you for your donations!

Also being collected are bottle caps for the Campfire Girls and can tabs for Thrivent and cancelled postage stamps for an organization in Kent. Thank you for your donations!

GIVING RECORDS

Deb Wolff will provide quarterly statements to those who would like them. Please let her know in writing if this is what you would like. Otherwise you will receive your statement yearly in January.

LCMS CONVENTION

A volunteer is needed to be our congregations lay delegate for the LCMS National Convention. It will be held on July 20 - July 25 in Tampa Florida. For more information on what this entails or to Volunteer, please see council president Steve Hlava

FLOWER AND CANDLE CHARTS

Please check the bulletin board to purchase Altar Flowers for \$25 or Vigil Candles for \$3.00. Please mark them in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special family member or friend.

Our April-June Portal of Prayers devotionals are available now. You can find them on the table by the door.

Council will be meeting in April on the 28th at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. New ideas are always appreciated.

Love to sing! Let's start the choir back up. Anyone interested in singing in the choir, please see Marla Manijak or call her at 330-472-3045 (cell) or 330-626-5120 (home). If I don't answer, please leave a message. I drive a school bus and can't always answer my phone. Hope to hear from you soon!

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Just at 216-789-6688 or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions. Pastor Just is in the office on Thursdays from 8:00-4:00.