

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015 VOLUME 38, ISSUE 4

Holy Week at Christ the Servant

Palm Sunday (March 29) through Easter Sunday (April 5)

Beginning on Sunday, March 29, we will once again enter into the most important week in the history of the human race. God's redemption plan to redeem and save the world is begun and completed by His Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey (to fulfill the Old Testament prophecy from Zechariah), shares a new covenant meal with His disciples on Maundy Thursday, carries a cross and dies for all the sin of the world on Good Friday, and then is raised triumphant on Easter morning having conquered sin, death and the devil (our three enemies in life). I cannot think of a better week to worship in the house of God with other believers remembering and rejoicing in the great love of God for us as shown in Jesus. Please join us for every service as each service builds on the previous one!

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) – “The Promised Messiah” (Zechariah 8:1-8; 9:9-12)

Thursday, April 2 (Maundy Thursday) – “A Loving Heart” (John 15:12-17)

Friday, April 3 (Good Friday) – “A Courageous Heart” (John 15:18-27)

Sunday, April 5 – “An Understanding Heart” (John 16:16-33)

Easter Sunday at Christ the Servant

April 5 (7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with two worship services. Our first service will be a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. Following this early service, an Easter breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall beginning at 8:00 a.m. At 9:15 a.m. the children of our congregational family are invited to come for an Easter Egg Hunt at the church. Then we will celebrate Easter with fanfare at the 10:00 a.m. service. **Touch of Brass** will be with us again to lead our prelude music, join us on the hymns we will sing, and send us forth with celebration with the postlude music. This is the day of resurrection, hope and promise!

Please join us and bring a neighbor, friend or relative with you!

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Sunday Service Times

8:30 a.m.

Traditional worship
with communion

9:40 a.m.

Sunday school for all ages
Coffee & Fellowship

10:45 a.m.

Contemporary worship
with communion

Help us save paper and postage by having the monthly newsletter delivered to your email instead. Thank you!



PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP"

(After Pastor Garry Seefeldt's last visit with us I would share my sense of worship on Sunday morning and its purpose for glorifying God.)

All four gospel writers record that when Jesus entered worship in the Jerusalem Temple, He overturned the tables of the money-changers and said: "*My house shall be a house of prayer but you have made it a den of robbers.*"— (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46; and John 2:16). The reason Jesus did this act is simple: worship is meant to glorify God! And Jesus addressed what the people had done to worship – they had brought their business into the church. Jesus was not against business *per se*, but He firmly reminded us that no business was to take place on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a day set aside to worship God alone. On six days one can do business, but on the Lord's Day of worship all business was to cease.

I would like to make a request of the entire congregation. Let's make the day of Sunday a day when we come to worship and glorify God **only**. Too often we bring the business of the church into Sunday morning. When we see someone who is responsible for a certain area at church, we have the natural urge to visit with them now. Let's do what Jesus told us to do. Instead of visiting with that person about it on Sunday morning—leave them alone and let them fully worship God. Contact them during the week (you have six other days to do this). (Leaders—if you are approached by a member on Sunday morning—kindly remind them that you are here to worship and that you will be happy to visit with

them anytime during the week.) Jesus wants all His people to worship God and not become distracted with duties and responsibilities. In fact, I have visited with several leaders who tell me how difficult it is for them to worship because members want to talk business with them on Sunday (which on the surface makes sense because our leaders are here on Sunday). But put yourself in their place: leaders and other church members have come to worship God, not do the business of the church on Sunday morning.

Another request is how we visit before worship begins. Often as the worship begins (we have prelude music to help prepare us for worship), many of us have gathered in the back of the church visiting with each other. While I do not want to discourage fellowship, let's confine our visiting to the fellowship hall before worship. Once we enter the worship area before the worship begins, let us sit reverently and prepare our hearts for worship, allowing any music to let us prepare. Once the service is over, visit as much as you want. While our intention is to be friendly, it is often difficult to begin worship when there is conversation happening in the back of the church.

I do not want to sound petty, but our main purpose in coming to the church building on Sunday is to **worship and glorify God**. I mention these two things because I often hear these concerns addressed to me. Leave our secretary alone. Put a note on her desk or call her in the morning. Allow our leaders time to worship with their family. You have their phone numbers and can call them during the week. Use our fellowship

time to visit, share joys and pains with each other, and pray with each other. Do not use that time either to talk church business with them. The only people with whom you should talk business before worship are the pastors (and that business should only be prayer requests to include in the prayers of the church).

I pray this all makes sense. God desires the praises of all His people, so let's make a covenant agreement and observe a few simple rules on Sunday morning:

- No more talking business on Sunday morning with our leaders and members (you can arrange a time with them on the other 6 days of the week).
- Before worship starts, enter the worship area reverently and find a pew where you can prepare for worship by allowing the music, scripture or prayer to prepare your heart.
- Use the fellowship hall for visiting before worship starts.
- Once the worship service is ended, let the conversation begin where mutual edification and encouragement is freely shared.

I believe these few simple changes will enhance your worship and the worship of the entire congregation.

Glorifying God together,

PASTOR MATT'S LETTER

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' " Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. **Mark 16:5-8 NIV** — the original ending in many of the earliest transcripts of Mark.

Jesus, the Christ, incarnate God, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary in Bethlehem the city of David, who: taught, healed, fed thousands, cast out demons, sat and ate with those no one else would consort, brought some back to life from the dead, provided miraculous signs of the presence and meaning of the kingdom of heaven, controlled wind and wave; and was: betrayed by one of his own disciples, chained, whipped, spit upon, slapped, mocked, scourged, denied by another of his disciples, the victim of a secret nighttime court, crowned with thorns, falsely accused, turned over to death, abandoned by all

his disciples, and was cruelly crucified in the most horrendous form of public humiliation and destruction ever devised; was laid in a borrowed tomb of one who sat on the council that condemned him . . .

On the third day He was raised from the grave and death by the glory of the Father with imperishability and immortality as his sign of God's YES for His obedience to the Father. And the first ones to find out about this unfathomable event — ran away, terrified, saying nothing to anyone because they were afraid. What would we do? What do we do with such amazing news?

He IS Risen!
RISEN INDEED!!!!
ALLELUIA!!!!

Share the story.

Sunday School is out in deep exploration this year. As we begin a new session of Exploring the Bible, we are all going to be looking at the books of Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah and what it is speaking to us still today. If you haven't been a part of classes yet, come on in and join the exploration adventure. Head out into the wilderness of God's Word to see what He has in store for you and where He is calling your life to join him in this Bible Adventure.

3 and 4 year olds, and Kindergarten are studying the Story Book Bible as an overview.

1st through 3rd Grade is a class group taught by Becky B. and Amanda C.

4th through 6th Grade is a class group taught by Judy C. and Susan T.

7th and 8th Grade is a discussion group led by Nate M. and Brian A.

High School and College is a discussion group led by Mary W., Greg M., Charlie S., and Linda M.

Wednesday Night ALIVE! will resume after Easter until May 13th. We will celebrate our Easter gift together in worship and activity, sharing and caring and hopefully a few surprises along the way. Dinners begin at 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 and then activity or worship after. We hope to see you there.

Vibrant Faith Corner: The Vibrant Faith page on our website isn't just for parents. Godparents, grandparents and step-parents have tools and ideas provided so that Vibrant Faith can be shared with the children in every direction. If you are a grandparent and want to grow closer in faith to your grandkids, all you have to do is start at the Vibrant Faith @ Home link on our web page. You can also go to Vibrantfaith.org and look at blogs and Learning Exchange for other things to ponder.

UnTangled — Let the Savior lead you out to See the Lights!

A 4-Week Children's Ministry opportunity for children Preschool through 4th Grade

UnTangled is going to untie your knots, clean you up, and get you ready to live out this Easter and every day with Jesus. This 4-week Children's Ministry Event will be focused on the weekly themes:

Sunday, April 12	Getting a trim
Sunday, April 19	Brushed and combed
Sunday, April 26	Wash and shampoo
Sunday, May 3	unTangled

Lunch will be served quickly after second worship each week with UnTangled from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Bible stories, skits and other activities will help us to get ready to meet a Living Savior and to get out of the bondage where we have been locked away. Come see how Jesus can show us to feel his love and share that with the world. If you would like to be part of these weeks of sharing, help out, or have your children participate, please contact Pastor Matt or Kathy in the office as soon as possible. Children from preschool through 4th grade are encouraged to participate.

Registration is now open for this 4-week opportunity.

"I pray that everything may go well with you, and that you may be in good health, as I know you are well in spirit." – 3 John 2

Blood Pressure Screening:

After 1st Service

2nd Sunday of the month

This month: April 12

HEALTHY AGING

You know that aging will likely cause you to develop wrinkles and gray hair. But do you know how the aging process will affect your teeth, heart and memory? Find out what changes you can expect in your body as you continue aging—and what you can do to promote good health at any age.

What's happening

As you age, your heart rate becomes slightly slower and your heart might become bigger. Your blood vessels and your arteries also become stiffer, causing your heart to work harder to pump blood through them. This can lead to high blood pressure (hypertension) and other cardiovascular problems.

To promote heart health:

Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Eat a healthy diet.

Don't smoke.

Manage stress.

What's happening

With age, bones tend to shrink in size and density, which weakens them and makes them more susceptible to fracture. You might even become a bit shorter. Muscles generally lose strength and flexibility, and you might become less coordinated or have trouble balancing.

To promote bone, joint and muscle health:

Get adequate amounts of calcium.

Get adequate amounts of vitamin D.

Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Avoid substance abuse.

What's happening

Constipation is more common in older adults. Many factors can contribute to constipation, including a low-fiber diet, not drinking enough fluids, and

lack of exercise. Medications such as diuretics and iron supplements, and certain medical conditions such as diabetes and irritable bowel syndrome, also might contribute to constipation.

To prevent constipation:

Eat a healthy diet.

Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Don't ignore the urge to have a bowel movement.

What's happening

Loss of bladder control (urinary incontinence) is common with aging. Medical conditions, such as diabetes, might contribute to incontinence—as can menopause for women and an enlarged prostate for men.

To promote bladder and urinary tract health:

Go to the bathroom regularly.

Maintain a healthy weight.

Don't smoke.

Do Kegel exercises.

What's happening

Memory tends to become less efficient with age. It might take longer to learn new things or remember familiar words or names.

To keep your memory sharp:

Eat a healthy diet.

Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Stay mentally active.

Be social.

If you're concerned about memory loss, consult your doctor.

What's happening

Your gums might pull back (recede) from your teeth. Certain medications, such as those that treat allergies, asthma, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, can also cause dry mouth. As a result, your teeth and gums might become slightly more vulnerable to decay and infection.

To promote oral health:

Brush and floss.

Schedule regular checkups.

What's happening

With age, your skin thins and becomes

less elastic and more fragile. You might notice that you bruise more easily. Decreased production of natural oils might make your skin drier. Wrinkles, age spots, and small growths called skin tags are more common.

To promote healthy skin:

Be gentle.

Take precautions.

Don't smoke.

What's happening

Maintaining a healthy weight is more difficult as you get older. As you get older, your muscle mass decreases and body fat takes its place. Since fat tissue burns fewer calories than does muscle, you need fewer calories to maintain your current weight.

To prevent unwanted weight gain:

Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Eat a healthy diet.

Watch your portion sizes.

5 THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

1. If you can see, be thankful that every day you can open your eyes and see things around you, the gorgeous sky, a sunset, etc. Too many people can't see, and it's not something we should take for granted.
2. Do you have your arms and legs? Be thankful, because there are folks who don't have them, and we should always be grateful.
3. Do you enjoy music? It's a thrill to hear beautiful music on the radio or TV. There are folks who are deaf and can't enjoy this wonderful experience, so be happy for this gift.
4. Are you able to walk, even a little bit? Be thankful that you can, because so many people aren't able to do so.
5. Can you push your child or grandchild on a swing? What fun it is! Some cannot do this and wish they could.

Birthdays

April 1 — Matthew Koepp
 April 6 — Mark Claussen, Hannah Roberts
 April 7 — Kyle Broders
 April 10 — Becky Bahnfleth, Tate Petersen
 April 11 — Sau Man Weich
 April 12 — Asher Beed, Blake Olson
 April 13 — Elizabeth Broders
 April 14 — Connie Petersen, Duane Theil
 April 17 — Jeff Hrouda
 April 18 — Jon Bahnfleth
 April 19 — Hayley and Joel Henriksen, Kay Skovsende
 April 20 — Kristy Rosberg, Bob Lutz, Joel Putters
 April 21 — Ron Brand, Mike Finkral
 April 22 — Katelyn Anderson, Brandon Jones, Stella Kratochvil
 April 24 — Mike Morton, Patrick Olson, Jared Weich
 April 25 — Steve Freese
 April 27 — Julie Adams
 April 29 — Kaitlin Hrouda, Galen Thompson

Anniversaries

Gerald & Jane Carstens — April 5
 Sheldon & Arlis Lind — April 8
 Keith & Lynn Bourn — April 11
 Jeremy & Danita Broders — April 17
 Arlynn & Sharon Boelman — April 19
 Kathy & Brad Rogers — April 27
 Lonnie & Margaret Svitak — April 27
 Don & Marsha Burke — April 29

*God's blessings to everyone celebrating this month.
 May your day, and your year, be filled with joy!*

*If your birthday or wedding anniversary is not listed,
 please let us know so we can change our records. For
 accuracy, we need the full date of birth or anniversary.*

Teen Moms Infant Childcare Program Update

We will have 6 infants in the childcare program in April. Right now we have 3 volunteers and 1 substitute helping out with the program. If there is anyone else who would like to volunteer to help with the kids or substitute for me when I'm gone due to illness or vacation, please let me know. I would love to have another volunteer and substitute, just in case! I am usually at the childcare Mondays-Fridays from 7:30-4:30. The

phone number for the childcare is (402)379-2477 or you can email me at teenmomprogram@gmail.com.

We are getting everything ready to start putting up a fence so the kids can safely play outdoors. Our state licensing specialist felt that we needed to build a fence since the Benjamin Ave and Victory Road corner can have a lot of semi traffic. I look forward to being able to take the kids outside this spring!

As I am doing this ministry and running this "race" for Christ I have been shown that I'm not running it alone. It is, in fact, more like a relay race. There are so many different pieces and jobs to this program. It has been a joy to hand off the "mentor mom" baton and watch those relationships develop. It has also been helpful to hand off the "caregiver" baton to some volunteers a couple days a week so that I can get paperwork and scheduling done. As the program grows and develops, I will need to hand off some more of the batons I have been carrying in order to keep the program functioning as it should. But I look forward to that day because nothing is as unstoppable as the body of Christ working together, loving and serving one another! Thank you so much for all of the continued support and prayers!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders us and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

In Him,
 Liz Armitage

Minutes of the Feb. 5 Women of CTS meeting

Present: Michelle Anderson, Kathy Rogers, Becky Bahnfleth, Julie Freese

Becky opened with prayer. The minutes of our last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Kathy presented the Treasurer's Report. There is \$2,574.57 in our account. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Becky and Michelle will order an assortment of items from World Trade Coffee (totaling \$250) to be sold as a fundraiser with proceeds going toward the bathroom remodeling project. We want to do a total remodel with the bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall, starting with the women's bathroom. Michelle will work on getting prices, starting with flooring.

Be looking for a verse that can be used for our yearly Bible verse and bring them to the next meeting.

The Women of CTS will serve one of the Lenten meals with proceeds going to the Teen Moms Infant Childcare.

Wine, Women, Wisdom will be at Julie's house this month

Mary Weich and Amanda Cyboron are heading up the Women off CTS Spring Gathering on March 7.

Becky closed the meeting with prayer.

APRIL 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 No evening activities	2 Maundy Thursday 9AM PieceMakers Quilting 7 PM Worship	3 Good Friday 7 PM Worship	4
	5 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise service 8:00 Breakfast 9:15 Easter egg hunt (no Sunday school) 10:00 Celebration service w/Touch of Brass	6 Church office closed	7 5:30 p.m. The Journey (church) 7PM Childcare committee mtg.	8 WEDNESDAY NIGHT Alive 5:30 prayer meeting 7:30 choir practice	9 9AM Agape Circle 6PM Women of CTS meeting/ Bible study at 7 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	10
12 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday school 10:45 Worship 12:45 Untangled	13 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	14	15 WEDNESDAY NIGHT Alive 5:30 prayer meeting 7:30 choir practice	16 6:45p.m. MOPS/ MOMSnext 7:00 p.m. Wine Women & Wisdom	17 5:30 Girl Scouts	18
Pastor Steve at Via de Cristo Wed.-Sat. (Camp Moses Merrill, Schuyler)						
19 8:30 Traditional 9:40 Sunday school 10:45 Contemporary worship Untangled (12:45-2:15 pm) Board meetings 6:30 p.m.	20 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	21 Norfolk Ministerial Sabbath Rest Retreat	22 WEDNESDAY NIGHT Alive 5:30 prayer meeting 7:30 choir practice	23 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	24 Garry Seefeldt's 3rd visit, Thursday thru Sunday	25 9a.m.—12 noon Open Forum with Garry Seefeldt
26 9 AM Sunday school 10 AM Worship 11:15 Potluck 12:00 Mission mtg with congregation Untangled (5:45 -7:15 pm)	27 6:30 p.m. The Journey (church)	28	29 WEDNESDAY NIGHT Alive 5:30 prayer meeting 7:30 choir practice Set up for rummage sale after WNA	30 Set up for rummage sale 6:30 PM Way of Life (parsonage)	May 1 Set up for rummage sale 5:30 Girl Scouts	May 2 Bless & Be Blessed rummage sale

5:00 FLYTE, Confirmation
6:30 Meal
7:00 Activity/worship
7:30 Youth Group

APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DATE/ 8:30 A.M.	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	COFFEE
APRIL 5 Easter Sunrise ser- vice 7:00 a.m.						YOUTH GROUP
APRIL 12	Arlynn & Sharon Boelman	Steve & Julie Freese	Katelyn A.	Susan Thompson	Michelle & Micheyla Anderson	BJ & Sharon Koeppe
APRIL 19	Roger & Karen Peters	Mike & Nell Finkral	Katelyn A.	Richard Hillrichs	Charlie & Louise Skoglund	Rich & Kay Jaeger
APRIL 26	ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 A.M.	PASTOR GARRY RETURNS				Dean & Doris Hoffart

DATE/ 10:45 A.M.	GREETERS	USHERS	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
APRIL 5 Easter Celebration 10:00 a.m.	Lu Carter and Bill Thoendel	Doug and Pat Witte	Elizabeth B.	Linda Cyboron	Bob and Andy Lutz
APRIL 12	Linda and Amanda Cyboron	Lonnie & Margaret Svitak	Ethan Olson	Lonnie Svitak	Becky and Tara Bahnfleth
APRIL 19	Dean nd Doris Hoffart	Jeremy & Sharel Olson	Ethan O.	Blake Olson	Lonnie and Margaret Svitak
APRIL 26 One ser- vice, 10 AM, with Pastor Garry	Sheldon and Arlis Lind	Warren Bennett, Greg Moen	Elizabeth B.	Connie Atkinson	Gary and Mary Weich

Offering Counting Teams:

April 5 Dean & Doris Hoffart
 April 12 Meg Donovan, Nell Finkral
 April 19 Marsha Burke, Rhonda Piske
 April 26 Darcy Metschke, Korrie Hall

Altar Guild: Nell Finkral, Connie Petersen

Communion Bread: Becky Bahnfleth

Membership Care Team: Jo Roberts, Linda Miller

Bless & Be Blessed

The 2nd annual Bless and Be Blessed rummage sale is set for Saturday, May 2. Are you getting your house ready for graduation? Maybe doing some spring cleaning or decluttering? Or just have unwanted treasures taking up space. All items (except clothing) can be dropped off at the fellowship hall April 29-30 and May 1.

More details will be forthcoming in bulletins and on Facebook.

Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2015

A detailed Profit & Loss report is available for review in the church office upon request.

	Feb 28, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/savings	
Endowment-4076	7,123.09
General checking	4,435.83
Savings - 4034	74,058.75
Total Checking/savings	85,617.67
Other Current Assets	
Designated giving	
Aaron & Anna Cyboron (China)	-25.00
Amanda Cyboron	-545.00
Brandon & Marie Cyboron (china)	-25.00
Church Property Fund	-45,656.78
Daycare Fund	-4.50
Disaster Relief Fund	-100.00
Good Samaritan Fund	-205.56
Matt Fund	-2,000.00
Memorials	-3,211.26
Military Bible Sticks	-250.00
Missions/Growth	-380.71
Parsonage	-3,023.73
Special Projects	-7,263.00
Tanzania (Grand parents) Fund	-639.00
Tanzania (Water) Fund	-500.00
Tanzania Fund Missiom	-1,174.31
Tanzania Youth Missiom Fund	-27,078.67
Worship Fund	-2,500.00
Total Designated giving	-94,582.52
Total Other Current Assets	-94,582.52
Total Current Assets	-8,964.85
TOTAL ASSETS	-8,964.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through February 2015

	Jan - Feb 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Church Income			
Member Contributions	31,932.00	41,527.50	-9,595.50
Non-member Contributions	2,342.72	2,166.66	176.06
Other Church Income	764.65	174.80	589.85
Total Church Income	35,039.37	43,868.96	-8,829.59
Total Income	35,039.37	43,868.96	-8,829.59
Expense			
Administration	27,109.50	31,234.43	-4,124.93
Church Building and Grounds	5,463.14	6,645.56	-1,182.42
Church Properties - Parsonage	1,344.74	854.04	490.70
Discipleship	1,604.35	1,878.50	-274.15
Fellowship & Evangelism	603.96	456.46	147.50
Outreach - Mission Beyond our C	1,600.00	1,700.00	-100.00
Postage and Delivery	609.13		
Service and Local Mission	253.10	1,201.66	-948.56
Stewardship	0.00	83.34	-83.34
Worship	658.36	1,513.24	-854.88
Total Expense	39,246.28	45,567.23	-6,320.95
Net Ordinary Income	-4,206.91	-1,698.27	-2,508.64
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Daycare Income	7,237.58	6,436.36	801.22
Total Other Income	7,237.58	6,436.36	801.22
Other Expense			
Daycare (Based on 6 kids)	4,912.40	6,436.34	-1,523.94
Total Other Expense	4,912.40	6,436.34	-1,523.94
Net Other Income	2,325.18	0.02	2,325.16
Net Income	-1,881.73	-1,698.25	-183.48

As we continue to grow our partnership with the congregation in Msaranga Mandaka, Tanzania there are several things that we would like to bring to the congregation's attention. Our hope is to monthly, or at least quarterly, be able to update the CTS community of ministry and events that are taking place in Tanzania, as well as prayer concerns for the people there; our aim being to have a more informed way to lift them up in prayer.

Additionally, we have separated the categories for designated giving so that those who wish to share their gifts toward the ministry in Tanzania can do so clearly and know that your gifts are being applied where you wish. The four designations for giving are as follows:

Tanzania Mission – This account is for assisting in the cost of travel and support for either people to go to Tanzania or to assist in bringing some from Tanzania here to be with us.

Tanzania Youth Mission – This account remains in place for the raising of funds for building a center for children with disabilities (the BCC) and then will remain as a support to help fund supplies and needs of the center.

Grandparents for Tanzania (which can also be parents as well) — This fund is to help aid in the support and needs of assisting orphans (street children) to be able to go to school and receive an education and hope. We are currently working with the Tanzania Woman's Aid and Relief group in Moshi to make this like an adoption model where people will be able to move to a 1 on 1 relational process with an orphan. Our hope is to be able to make mailings and picture connections possible so that Grandparents can walk with their adoptee through life and bring support and encouragement to them.

Tanzania Water Mission – This fund is dedicated to building a water drilling program in Tanzania that will bring safe clean water to people at low cost to the mission.

Additionally, there has been a pastoral change at Msaranga Mandaka. Pastor Foya has left for Mpanda Parish as a new mission pastor for that congregation on February 27, 2015. The new pastor in charge is Rev. Joram L. Mamuya who reported here as of February 26, 2015 has begun as the pastor in charge as of March 14. The congregation knows him as he was a student pastor for nine months in Msaranga in 2012/13. He is a good leader and a spiritual man. We hope to do much with him.

The congregation has asked for prayers from our congregation concerning several matters:

That in the transition of pastors all would go smoothly and the congregation would learn to love him as their new pastor.

That the work of the government that has been going on for over a year for the writing of a new constitution would be blessed.

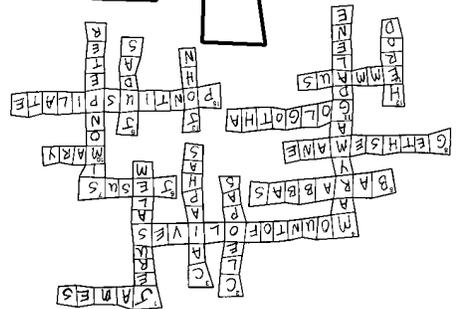
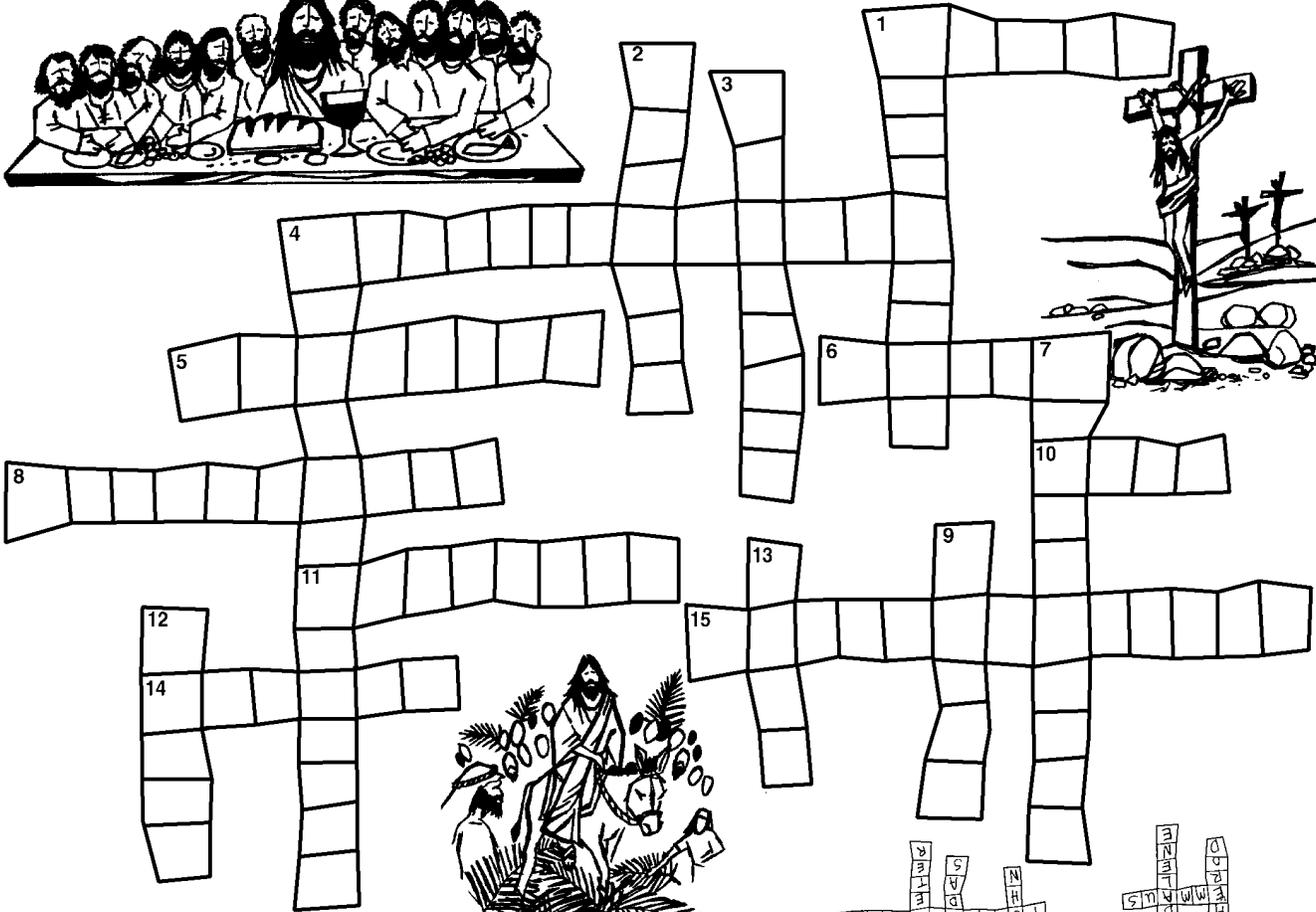
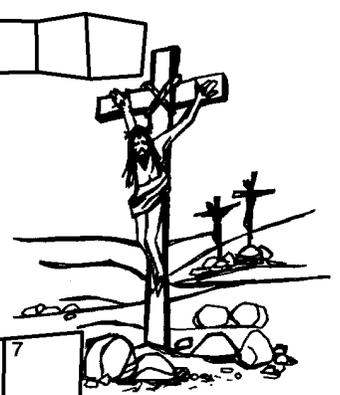
That the upcoming elections to ratify the constitution would go smoothly with no problems and that the people of Tanzania would be at peace with the outcome of these elections.

Finally, we are only about \$5,000 short of our goal for the Center for children with disabilities. Being so close, the youth are beginning to make plans to head to Tanzania this summer to help in the construction of that building. More information about this will be following in April.

On February 26-March 1 and March 12-15th Spiritual Counselor Garry Seefeldt met with our congregation to help facilitate reconciliation and healing within our congregation. He also began to help us begin the process of moving forward in ministry. On Sunday, March 15th following a potluck meal Garry shared with us recommendations to start on. The Board of Spiritual Oversight and Board of Administration met on Sunday night (March 22nd). We reviewed the items Garry presented to us and we are making plans. We are planning 4 mission meetings this year to discuss topics such as worship, confirmation curriculum, ministry within our 4 walls and also how are we going to go out beyond our 4 walls. While I realize that that may sound vague it truly is part of the process, so please be patient with us. Garry will return the weekend of April 23-26th when more individual meetings will occur, an open forum on Saturday morning and our first mission meeting will occur after a potluck (with Garry being present during that mission meeting) on Sunday, April 26th. Topics that we will discuss at that meeting will be worship, extending the terms for 1 year of board members due to go off boards (per Garry's recommendation), an update on the infant daycare and an initial look at the confirmation curriculum.

I am providing this update via our newsletter but you will receive a letter in a few weeks (closer to Garry's next visit) outlining the plans for that weekend so you may plan your involvement in that weekend.

Margaret Svitak
Chair of the Board of Spiritual Oversight
President of the Congregation



The Easter Story

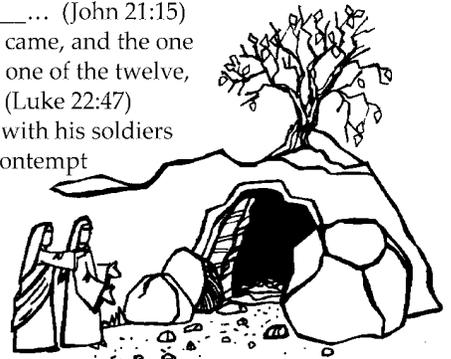
The Easter story can be found in Mark 11–16 and other books. Find some of the people and places from the story and add them to the puzzle.

Across

1. He took with him Peter, _____, and John. (Mark 14:33)
4. When he was sitting on the _____ ... (Mark 13:3)
5. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release _____ instead. (Mark 15:11)
6. But _____ made no further reply. (Mark 15:5)
8. They went to a place called _____. (Mark 14:32)
10. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and _____, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices. (Mark 16:1)
11. Then they brought Jesus to the place called _____. (Mark 15:22)
14. Now on the same day two of them were going to a village called _____. (Luke 24:13)
15. _____ was governor of Judea. (Luke 3:1)

Down

1. The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to _____. (John 12:12)
2. One of them, whose name was _____ ... (Luke 24:18)
3. The high priest was called _____. (Matthew 26:3)
4. There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them was _____. (Mark 15:40)
7. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to _____ ... (John 21:15)
9. Suddenly a crowd came, and the one called _____, one of the twelve, was leading them. (Luke 22:47)
12. Even _____ with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. (Luke 23:11)
13. Jesus sent Peter and _____ . (Luke 22:8)



Explore the Bible

The Minor Prophets – continue through May

Following the message of Easter, we will continue to hear from the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament. The prophets are all about relationships—our relationship with God and how it should shape our relationships with others. The Minor Prophets call for faithfulness to God's covenant and impending consequences if people don't repent. They speak the freshest, the wisest of counselors, for they ultimately point us to Jesus. Again, pick up a personal study guide on the back table for further reflection and study (they also make a great way to build a personal study library for the entire Bible).

Our themes after Easter will be:

- April 12 "A Witnessing Heart" (John 16:1-15)
- April 19 "A Refined People" (Zechariah 13:1-9)
- April 26 ONE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. (Pastor Garry Seefeldt preaching)
Sunday school will begin at 9:00 a.m.

(AFFIX ADDRESS LABEL HERE)



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