



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

APRIL 2019

Birthdays

4-6 Hannah Roberts
4-7 Kyle Broders
4-10 Tate Petersen
4-12 Blake Olson
4-13 Elizabeth Broders
4-14 Connie Petersen, Duane Theil
4-19 Kay Skovsende
4-20 Bob Lutz
4-21 Mike Finkral

Birthdays (continued)

4-22 Katelyn Anderson
4-24 Mike Morton, Patrick Olson
4-25 Steve Freese
4-26 Brad Rogers

Anniversaries

4-16 Mick & Doreen Kullbom; Gary & Mary Weich
4-19 Al & Sharon Boelman
4-27 Kathy & Brad Rogers; Lonnie & Margaret Svitak
4-29 Marsha & Don Burke

Sunday Worship – Lent, Holy Week, Easter

The month of April is an important month in worship! We will be celebrating three important events – the ending of the Lenten journey, Holy Week and the Three Days, and Easter. We move from the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross to the glorious good news of the resurrection and its power in our daily lives. Please join us for these important worship times, especially the Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter).

April 7 (John 12:1-8) **5th Sunday in Lent** Mary anoints Jesus for His burial

April 14 (Luke 19:28-40) **Palm Sunday** Entrance into the final days
The procession of palms

April 21 (Luke 24:1-12) **Easter** Women proclaim the resurrection
7:00 Sunrise; 10:00 Easter celebration (8:00 Easter breakfast; 9:15 Easter egg hunt)

April 28 (John 20:19-31) **2nd Sunday of Easter** Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

Mid-week Lenten Meal/Worship

6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. worship

We conclude our biblical character portrayals with two more monologs by the apostle Paul (Pastor Steve) and Lydia (Jo Roberts). Our Lenten theme this year has been **Thy Will Be Done**. Each week we have focused on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Each service is preceded by a free-will offering meal in the fellowship hall (served between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.). Each service includes a series of discussion questions which incorporate God's will into our daily living.

April 3 – God's Will and My Worldview – **Paul**

In this service we remember that, on the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

April 10 – God's Will and My Response – **Lydia**

In this service we remember that Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, 7 p.m. worship

During Holy Week we will be continuing our Lenten theme **Thy Will Be Done** as we have been focusing on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. We conclude our series on Maundy Thursday with Sol (the servant who prepared the Upper Room for the Last Supper) and Good Friday where Jesus fulfills the Father's will by dying on the cross as the final sacrifice made for human sin. Please join us for these two important services. It is said that one cannot rejoice in the joy of the resurrection on Easter without kneeling at the cross where Jesus died on Good Friday. There would be no resurrection without a death.

April 18 – God's Will and Joyful Service (Maundy Thursday) – **Sol**

In this service we remember that Christ asks His disciples to wash one another's feet, as He has washed theirs, for the joy that was set before Him. Serving one another is a tribute to Him who is the Servant of all.

April 19 – God's Will Is Done (Good Friday) – **Tenebrae Service**

In this service we remember that on the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, "It is finished" as He breathed His last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model to look at our lives as a holy sacrifice to Him.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 28, after worship

Our semi-annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, after morning worship. We will receive reports from our congregation council, our ministry teams, a financial report, and a report by Pastor Steve. All these reports will be written and placed in your church mailbox by April 14 (Palm Sunday). This meeting is also an election meeting. We will be electing a Vice President and two congregation council members (all positions will serve a 3-year term). Nominations from the congregation need to be received by April 14 for consideration to place on a ballot. These forms will be placed in the worship bulletin and on the back table. The nominating committee will contact each nominee to see if he or she would be willing to run for election to the congregation council.

Joe Rystrom Weekend

May 4-5

Former member of Christ the Servant and longtime evangelist, teacher, and director of YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in southeast Asia (especially in Hong Kong), Joe Rystrom will be with us the weekend of May 4-5. Joe returns yearly to visit his family who live in Stromsburg, Neb. He often comes to visit us and we are asking him to bring us a special teaching on Saturday night, proclaim the message on Sunday morning, and meet with our youth on Sunday with a noon meal. Joe would visit with us after worship during our fellowship time. Things have changed in China as the government has been persecuting the Christian church and expelling many Americans from China. He will give us an update on the current situation and give us specific ways to pray for the church in China.

Joe has a wealth of knowledge and experience in mission work, listening to the voice of God, and a teaching wisdom which can benefit us all. We are praying and discerning what teaching God wants to bring to us as Joe is in our midst. Joe could be compared to the apostle Paul who often visited congregations he had founded for encouragement and instruction. Here is Joe's tentative schedule:

Saturday – 6 p.m. potluck meal followed by a 90-minute teaching time at 7:00.

Sunday – Message at worship (10 a.m.); sharing during fellowship time; noon meal with youth with sharing time.

My Letter to the Congregation: "The Empty Tomb"

I recently received a link to a short video which could be shown on Easter Sunday. The video was simply entitled "Empty." In life there are so many times when we experience emptiness. Emptiness comes in many ways and forms, like when you are in a hurry and you jump in the car and your gas gauge is near empty. You open the refrigerator to get some milk for your cereal and it's empty. You open your bank account and it's empty (in the red). You drop off your youngest child at college and you realize the sadness of the empty nest. Or your spouse dies and you have an empty heart. These are but a few examples of emptiness. Life is full of them and when certain things or experiences happen "we just feel empty" inside.

Feeling empty brings to us so many different emotions. Emotions like disappointment, misery, heartache, and anxiety. Jesus had warned His disciples that the things of this world will never satisfy us. The things of earth are temporary and fleeting at best. In fact, Jesus said "whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:25) Jesus also said, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." (John 6:27) And "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35) Jesus was pretty clear about what brings fulfillment and lasting satisfaction and joy. Jesus constantly called people to "deny themselves, pick up a cross and follow Him." (Matthew 16:34)

Emptiness is never a good thing until the day of Easter. When the women had gone to the tomb to anoint his body for burial, they returned to the place where the disciples were gathered in fear and disappointment and said, "Peter, it's empty! The tomb is empty!" And an angel of the Lord spoke to us and said, "He is not here! He is risen!" Do you realize what the empty tomb means for us today? Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we need not be afraid anymore. We do not have to feel like we have been abandoned or that our empty feelings are permanent anymore. The promise of eternal life has been given to us. We no longer journey to the cemetery with little or no hope. We said goodbye to the earthly life of those we love but we do not say goodbye forever. On the day of our resurrection we will see them again. And our joy will not be taken away again. Never again will we feel empty. What a glorious day that will be. The final words of Jesus will become a reality. "You will weep and mourn . . . You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy . . . Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." (John 16: 20, 22)

I can only imagine the great joy when the disciples finally saw the risen Christ after visiting the empty tomb. That same Easter evening Jesus appeared to them and I can only imagine the utter joy on their faces! On this coming Easter day I think of all the "empty" people in our lives and world who need to hear this good news. May we be the messengers of this good news to those in our world who need the Easter empty tomb message. Reach out and touch someone this year through your witness and joy!

Empty no more,

Paster Steve

Christ the Servant Council Meeting
March 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Richard Hillrichs, Pastor Steve Lund, Steve Freese, Jan Puls, Steve Morton, Doug Witte, Emily Svitak, Al Boelman, Warren Bennett, Deb Olson, Greg Moen

Absent: Steve Jessen

Visitor to address 'Kitchen Fund': Joan Falke

Steve Morton opened the meeting with a devotion on Deuteronomy 28:3 about blessings, and how they come upon us not because of where we are, but Whose we are and who died for us.

Approval of Agenda

Al Boelman would like to give an update on missions (under Old Business). With no objections, the agenda stands approved with this addition.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections of date under New Business of the next meeting to March 18th, as well as a word inserted grammatically under Old Business. Minutes were approved with the changes.

Financial Report

Balance in the general account is \$46,493.15 as of February 28th.

Joan gave a report on the kitchen fund accounts. The account is under the church umbrella by using the church's tax exempt number. The account was chosen because of interest rates, which is why it happens not to be in the same bank as the other church accounts. (Kitchen funds were at \$3,698.69 as of August 2018.)

Following Joan's explanations and her response to the Council's questions, Joan will bring the funds to the church office in order to be deposited in the church savings account. This is to be done by March 26th.

Doug Witte moved that \$200 is sent/wired to American Lutheran Church in Rantoul, Illinois each month for the support of Msaranga Mandaka Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (as designated in the budget). Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on Steve Morton's proposal for account naming and usage: More discussion will follow at next month's meeting after members have time to look over the numbers.

Greg Moen left a financial report for the council to look over. It gave balances as of 3/18/19.

Pastor's Report

Worship committee ordered some banners. There is need for a place to store them. Pastor Steve hopes to clean out Pastor Matt's old office in order to store the banners and create a better form of storage. If any council members would like to come and help on the crafting weekend, they are welcome.

Youth have expressed interest in a mission trip this summer.

The sound board is needing to be replaced. This is to happen soon through a gift. Brian Anderson is looking into options for this.

Discipleship blueprint has been a good tool for Pastor Steve to be going through and digesting/processing.

Semi-annual meeting will have reports from each of the committees/teams.

Old Business

Semi-annual meeting will be held April 28th. Written reports from each team will be presented. Elections will also be held at that time.

Richard Hillrichs presented a question about the elections. As Richard (VP) is leaving the council, the question of how to fill the office was brought before the council. More will be decided on this at the April 15th meeting.

New Business

Al Boelman spoke about the letter he received from Aaron Cyboron. The support for his family that was allocated in the budget was sent in January and February, but has now been stopped per his new position.

Assigning of Council members to oversee budget areas. These assigned areas would just be looked over (budget-wise) by each council member to have high accountability. More on this to come

Book discussion on *Who Broke My Church*: Pastor Steve touched on the different strategies. More discussion on this will happen throughout next meetings.

Future Agenda Items

Financial Accounts (names/amounts/descriptions)

Upcoming Events

Holy Week - April 14-19

Easter - April 21

Semi-annual Meeting - April 28

Confirmation Sunday - June 9 (Pentecost)

Next Meeting: April 15

Deb Olson closed with prayer. Jan Puls moved to adjourn. Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried.

Stewardship Thought

Giving is an important part of being a Christian. There are many reasons to give, and the following will help people understand the importance of giving:

Giving expresses our gratitude and thanksgiving to God. King David wrote, *"Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand"* (1 Chronicles 29:13-14). David understood God's awesome love and generosity. David saw the joy that his people had in responding to God's love and care by giving to the building of the temple. It was his prayer that their commitment and generous giving to the Lord would continue forever.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church			
3/1/2019 report			
	January	February	YTD
Income			
Member Offerings	11,031.00	12,729.00	23,760.00
Non Member Offering	1,764.14	1,278.36	3,042.50
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, Metschke)	46.50	5,320.00	5,366.50
Designated Missions	125.00	25.00	150.00
Designated A Cyboron		50.00	50.00
Designated B Cyboron		50.00	50.00
Designated Day Care/income	3,105.52	1,534.74	4,640.26
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00	50.00	100.00
Interest Income	11.99	11.16	23.15
Total	16,134.15	21,048.26	37,182.41
Expenses			
Administration	9,050.02	8,337.78	17,387.80
Church Building	3,128.07	3,569.99	6,698.06
Parsonage	512.03	358.93	870.96
Discipleship	49.99	128.79	178.78
Fellowship/Evangelism	127.70	67.10	194.80
Church Mission Giving	800.00	800.00	1,600.00
Local Benevolence	477.85	19.99	497.84
Worship	11.64	742.67	754.31
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, Metschke)		5,320.00	5,320.00
Day Care	923.51	-	923.51
Total	15,080.81	19,345.25	34,426.06
Income Statement			
	January	February	YTD
General Income	12,853.63	19,338.52	32,192.15
Less General Expenses	14,157.30	19,345.25	33,502.55
Church General Income	(1,303.67)	(6.73)	(1,310.40)
Day Care Income	3,105.52	1,534.74	4,640.26
Less Day Care Expenses	923.51	-	923.51

April 2019

*Pastor out of office on Friday
Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thur,
Fri 8:30-12:30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	*Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 Worship committee	3 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 meal 7:00 worship Choir practice	4 9:00 Piecemakers 6:30 MOPS steering committee	5 5:30 Girl Scouts	6
7 Lent 5 (p) 9:00 Sun. school 10:00 worship (T) Fellowship Choir practice	8 5:00 Hospitality committee 6:00 Ultreya	9 4:30 Stewardship committee	10 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 meal 7:00 worship Choir practice	11 9:00 Agape Circle	12	13
14 Palm Sunday (p) 9:00 Sun. school 10:00 worship (T) Choir practice Potluck Youth group	15 6:30 Council meeting	16	17 No evening activities	18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 service	19 Good Friday 7:00 service	20
21 Easter (w) 7:00 Sunrise svc 8:00 breakfast 9:15 egg hunt 10:00 Celebration	22 Office closed 6:00 Ultreya	23 7:00 Worship committee 7:00 Kitchen remodel meeting	24 5:30 Confirmation	25	26	27
28 Easter 2 (w) 9:00 Sun. school 10:00 worship (C) Fellowship Cong. meeting/ elections Youth group	29	30	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Joe Rystrom weekend May 4-5 7 p.m. Saturday = teaching 10 a.m. Sunday = preaching</p> </div>			

Worship: T = traditional; C = contemporary
Paraments: (w) = white; (p) = purple

Membership Care Team: Linda Cyboron and Julie Freese
Altar Guild: Julie Freese and Michelle Anderson

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 3rd Friday of the month.