



Easter Triumph Easter Joy

*“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

Easter triumph, Easter joy. This year we get to celebrate Easter on March 31<sup>st</sup>, the last day of March. I love the fact that the Easter season takes place in a brand new month, separate from the month of lent. March this year is lent, April dwells in Easter. The Resurrection of Jesus has brought about something new, the old has passed and the new has come. What is this new thing? As Paul puts it, we needed a victory, we needed a win. The resurrection of Jesus brings us this win.

We needed a win because this world is throwing everything at us. We have had to deal with sickness and death. We have had to deal with sin and broken relationships. We have had to deal with a world that wants to distract us from Jesus with a whole variety of things. This year we even have March Madness basketball games on Easter Sunday. I wish I could say I was shocked when I saw this, but alas it is our culture's priority right now. Rather than focusing on the Resurrection of Jesus, many in our culture will be focused on the victory of a few men. But what will their victory result in? I cannot remember who won last year, let alone 10 years ago. The victors may remember for the rest of their lives, but will their victory be remembered in 100? I do not say these things to ridicule the basketball tournament (I myself have filled out a few brackets) but rather to put their victory into perspective. Compare their victory with the victory that Christ brings on Easter Sunday.

The victory of Easter has brought about a life without fear and worry. Before Jesus rose from the dead we as people needed to worry about everything, because messing anything up could result in our death. But with the resurrection we no longer need to worry about death- it has been defeated. Before Jesus rose again from the dead we needed to worry about our relationship with God because of our sin. But with the resurrection we can be at peace for our sins have been washed away, cast into the tomb where they remain while Jesus lives. In a world of sin and darkness we need Easter Joy. As Paul puts it, we needed a win. Jesus' resurrection has defeated sin, death and the devil and has opened for us the doors of eternal life.

So I pray that you made it to our Easter service in March. I pray equally as hard that this April you continue to participate in the Easter victory. We participate not merely by watching on TV like on basketball. Instead we participate by receiving the victorious Body and Blood of Jesus every Sunday. We participate by studying the Bible in group studies and devotions. We participate in his victory by proclaiming it wherever we go. So this April we know who the victor is. The victory belongs to Jesus. Go and proclaim the good news, go and proclaim the triumph. **JESUS IS RISEN!**

**HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!**

**And Amen.**

*Pastor Josh*



## Bible Studies

### Thursday Morning Bible Class - Thursday 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

The first letter of Peter is truly a great book for us to study today. It speaks to a people who recognize this world is not their home, there is something greater. As Christians we are this people, and we recognize that we are different from those who only see life through the lenses of this world. This book will show how we can remain faithful as people of the promise, while also being a witness to other so that they too can see this true home that God gives. Chapters 1-3 will discuss who we are as God's people, and how we become different from the rest of the world. Chapters 4-6 then teach us how we ought to live having received this new identity as God's people. The new life Christ calls us to through Peter is not easy, but Peter also makes sure we understand that it will be worth it and that God will be there with us every step of the way.

April 4 <sup>th</sup> 2:1-12	A people set apart from the world.
April 11 <sup>th</sup> 2:13-25	How do we interact with those in authority?
April 18 <sup>th</sup> 3:1-7	Christian Marriage vs Worldly Marriage.
April 25 <sup>th</sup> 3:8-22	Suffering for doing good as Christ Suffered.

### Men's Bible Breakfast - April 13 & 27 at 7:00AM in the Fellowship Hall

**Ten Men of the Bible:** The men depicted in the Bible were not perfect by any means. The amazing thing is that our God used these flawed, sinful men to accomplish many wonderful things, to further His purposes for mankind. They endured trials and tribulation, and they continued to trust in the Lord, and follow Him. We are flawed men as well, every single one of us. God, our Father, desires to use *us* and is with us wherever we go. For the month of April, we will be looking at King David, who faced "Giant Problems and Colossal Collapses:

April 13: Introduction, Days 1 & 2 in the workbook, pp. 91-100

April 27: Days 3, 4, and 5. pp. 101 - 115

On these Saturdays, a bunch of flawed but dedicated Christian men gather together. We have some wonderful fellowship, we eat a good breakfast prepared by one of the guys, and then we study the Word of God. It's a great time to grow in faith and fellowship. We gather shortly before 7am; 79<sup>th</sup> street doors are unlocked. All men are welcome!! Come join us as we eat, pray, and then study God's Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am.

### Multi Generational Bible Study & Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the Fellowship Hall for an introduction to the lesson of the day. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the Fellowship Hall for a recap. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God's word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.



Dear College Care Package Committee,

I received your care package in the mail the other day, and just want to send my appreciation and gratitude. I was completely surprised and greatly touched by this gesture! I am so grateful to be part of such a caring community. You brought a big smile to my face (and snacks to my pantry ☺) and I want you to know how much this act is appreciated. God bless all of you throughout this Lenten season.

Sincerely, Emily Reinhardt

## Ladies Groups

### Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Pallas Restaurant 1657 S. 108<sup>th</sup> Street on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

### Quilter's Patch

We are excited that two more ladies have joined our merry band of quilters. Kathy Schultz kept the sewing machine humming while Mary Kochanski worked with Ruth Miller putting the front, filler and back together. There is always something to do, so you could join us too. We meet in the fellowship hall at 9am to 11:30 on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays. Below is the schedule for April through June.

April - 1st, 15th and 30th

May - 6th and 20th

June - 3rd and 24th

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Ziolecki via phone or text at 414-841-6097 or email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com.

### Ladies Guild

Thank you all that donated to the SOS Center door collection last month. The \$1033 was presented to them on March 30th when I returned from vacation.

We have a few things coming up in April.

- April 13th and 14th is the bake sale to raise funds for our Guatemalan student's tuition. We will be selling yummy treats after all three church services.
- The zone rally will take place on April 20th at Elm Grove Lutheran at 9 a.m. "Free at Last" program with servant event of hygiene kits for inmates.
- April 22nd will be our 2nd servant activity event. We will be assembling witness bracelets again for Missional Community to distribute at various events.

The next business meeting will be Monday, May 20th at 6:30pm.

For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell, text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com

# APRIL

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Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837

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# Thank You

To everyone who helped make our Lenten and Easter Season so memorable. From our church workers, food preparers and servers, bulletin stuffers, to our musicians, and to those who helped by collecting items for our College Care Packages and our Food Pantry. You have been a blessing!



## **Voters' Assembly Sunday April 28th**

**In between Worship Services**

**(No Bible Class or Sunday School  
will be held this day, so you can attend the meeting!)**

# Mother's Day Weekend May 11-12, 2024

2nd Annual Event

St. Paul's Students Assisting in Worship

Special Recognition of Mothers

**Only Two Services: Saturday @ 5pm and Sunday at 9am**

Saturday Night Auction Event

Sunday Morning Continental Breakfast



# Sharing God's Bounty

## What's Your Gift?

Perhaps you haven't spent much time, if any, pondering that question. God has given each of us at least one gift, though, and if even one of us does not use that gift, the Body of Christ suffers. Paul, in Ephesians 4:16 writes, *"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and build itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Christian stewards tend to have a lower opinion of themselves than they ought, denigrating their abilities and talents and even their financial capabilities. When we keep in mind that it is God himself who has chosen our gifts and blessed us materially, we realize that to belittle these gifts is to question God's wisdom and generosity. Again we read Paul's words, now from Romans 12:5, *"... in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."* He goes on to say that whatever our gifts are, we are to use them as effectively as we can.

Yes, it is the pastor's job to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, but we, as stewards who have received the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20, are to be obedient also to Jesus' command to tell the Good News to the whole world.

Yes, there are those in your congregation who seem to have more abilities and talents than you, and there may be members who have more money than you – perhaps may even be very wealthy. Does that exempt you from the responsibility to serve or to give? By no means! In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we're commanded, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Each one is to give and to give cheerfully – of his time, his talents, and his treasures. God looks at the size of the heart of the giver rather than at the size of his gift. *"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

If you are not using your gifts, if you are not giving your money, if you are not sharing your time, the Body of Christ suffers. We need each other and our individual gifts in order that we might carry out our responsibilities as stewards to the end that the name of Christ might be made known.

*Stewardship is not about large giving, but gifts in small ways. A child's gift, although small, gives glory to the Lord in many ways. Stewardship does not have to be in monetary ways. A gift of time to an elderly shut-in serves the Lord, too, A gift of a loaf of bread to a homeless family could mean the difference between going to bed hungry or going to bed satisfied.*

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The counsel of the LORD stands forever,  
the plans of His heart to all generations.  
Psalm 33:11

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK\\_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber)

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions! Visit our Website! [www.splcwa.org](http://www.splcwa.org) Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities! Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

## Music Notes

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!  
Praise be to God for the victory of Easter!

**THANKS** to all the musicians that have sung and played the last several weeks. Thanks to the members of the choir and handbell groups that have practiced faithfully and added to so many services lately. Thanks to the instrumentalists that have helped beautify services and added an extra triumphant note to Easter services. (Pun intended.)  
Now you all deserve a break. **NO REHEARSALS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4!**

### **New Handbell Ringers Needed!**

Unfortunately, after Easter the bell choir will be losing some ringers. In order to continue playing three-octave music, we need more ringers. If you've ever thought about joining, this is the perfect time! You don't need to know how to read music. If you can count to 6, we'll teach you the rest. Practices are Thursday nights at 6pm. Contact Deaconess Carole to learn more.



### **Singers Needed!**

Anyone interested in joining choir is welcome too. We especially need a tenor or two right now, but any voice helps. Practices are at 7:15 on Thursdays.

## Youth News

**Laser Tag** - April 28<sup>th</sup>. This month all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to come play Laser Tag with Pastor Josh! We will be playing at the Battlefield house in Waukesha starting at 5:15. Please get there 10-15 minutes in advance. The group rate to play for 2 hours is 40 dollars per person, if you cannot afford this right now please let Pastor Josh know so we can make sure your child can attend. Both youth and their parents are welcome to attend, please contact Pastor Josh and give him the money by April 14<sup>th</sup> if you would like to participate. If you cannot attend for the full 2 hours there are also 1 hour options at 5:15 and 6:30. You can buy a ticket for your youth on the Battlefield house website. We hope you can come and have some fun! Contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions.

**Laundry Detergent Fundraiser - Its back!** Help support our youth by buying something you actually need! Laundry detergent and dish soap is available to purchase once again! This is a fundraiser that saves you money, as well as raises funds for our youth. You can pick up an order form starting March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex or elevator room. After filling out your order you may return it to Pastor Josh's mailbox with a check included. **Orders will be sent to Good Clean Fundraising by April 8<sup>th</sup>** and the detergent should arrive 2-3 weeks after that. If you have any questions talk to Pastor Josh.



# CIT Opportunities for High School Students at Camp LuWiSoMo This Summer

We're seeking high school students to serve as Summer Camp Counselors-In-Training (CITs) at Camp LuWiSoMo this summer.

CITs spend a week or two volunteering at summer camp serving alongside camp counselors and staff. Experience the joys and hard work of camp ministry, while developing leadership skills, making great friends, having fun, and growing in your faith.

CITs are a vital part of making summer camp the best it can be!

**Would you or someone you know make a great CIT?**



**See the [CIT webpage](#) for details  
Training Weekend is April 26-28,  
so it's time to apply now!**

Don't miss out on all the fun!



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Save the Date for our  
Anniversary and Farewell Celebration  
May 5, 2024

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service

Free lunch provided for all

*Watch your church bulletin or May Newsletter for more details.*



**Tour the Holy Land in Lent of 2025!** There is something special about meditating on the Scriptures in the very places where the events occurred. Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield will be leading a tour back to the Holy Land next March. Destinations include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Qumran, Masada, and of course the temple mount, Gethsemane, and the places of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem. We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. PLUS there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes a \$500 registration to hold your spot for this tour. Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. (There are discounts if you register before May 17th.) Just go to [registernow.ittworld.com](http://registernow.ittworld.com) and put in the tour code Koch25 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. And if you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Koch at 414-795-9005. We hope you'll be able to take part in this great experience!

**SAVE THE DATE – SWD Family Life Conference, June 8 at CUW**

In an effort to strengthen family bonds and instill lasting values, the South Wisconsin District's upcoming Family Life Conference under the theme "**Passing on the Faith**" aims to provide attendees with invaluable insights and resources. Scheduled to take place on **June 8, 2024 at Concordia University Wisconsin**, the conference will feature keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann and several break-out sessions geared towards equipping families with the tools needed to navigate life's challenges while staying grounded in their faith. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or guardian, this event offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow believers and reaffirm your commitment to fostering a strong faith-based foundation within your family. Learn more about the conference and register to attend at [www.swd.lcms.org/FLC](http://www.swd.lcms.org/FLC) before May 20. (The conference fee is \$5/person. But church and school groups are invited to take advantage of a group discount, so please be prepared to enter the name and email address of each registrant.)

# Ladies Guild Bake Sale

April 13 & 14

