

THE QUARTERLY BLESSINGS

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School



DATES TO KNOW

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- April 3 - Sweatshirt Sunday
- April 5 - Ministry Board Meeting
- April 6 - Women of St. Paul's
- April 6 - Midweek Lent Service
- April 14 - Maundy Thursday Service
- April 15 - Good Friday Service
- April 15-18 - Office Closed for Easter Break
- April 29 - Spring Fling

- May 3 - Ministry Board Meeting
- May 4 - Women of St. Paul's
- May 6 - 7th/8th Grade Dinner Theatre
- May 7 - Youth Fellowship Event
- May 8 - Mother's Day
- May 15 - Confirmation Sunday
- May 24 - 4K Graduation
- May 25 - Piano Recitals
- May 26 - Last Day of School Picnic

- June 1 - Women of St. Paul's
- June 7 - Ministry Board Meeting
- June 10-12 - Camp Croix Family Camp
- June 19 - Father's Day

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THE EASTER SEASON: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

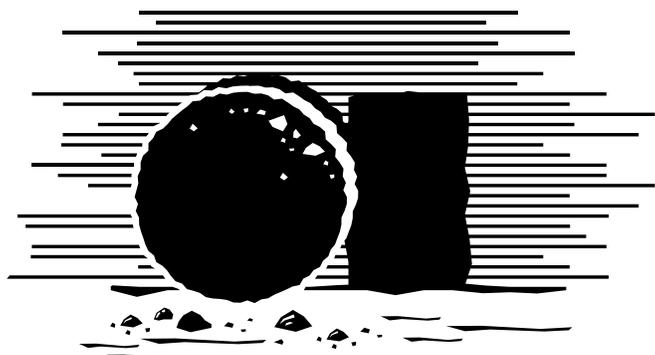
by Pastor Jeffrey Seelow

Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! — 1 Corinthians 54-57

Easter is coming. The most joyful celebration of the Christian Church, yes, the highest festival celebration of the Christian Church Year. It traditionally begins with the shout of the worship leader, "Christ is risen!" The response of the congregation: "He is risen indeed!"

Just what is all the celebrating about? The victory long-awaited by God's people. The celebration of the defeat once and for all of the power and guilt of sin, eternal death, and the punishment of the devil in the locked dungeons of hell itself for all eternity.

But it isn't just a once a year celebration. Did you know that each week as we gather for worship on Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus? The Christian Church chose Sunday as their day of worship for that very reason. They wanted to observe on a weekly basis as they gathered for worship the victory that his ours through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.



What better focus than Jesus each week?! As we gather for worship, as we sing through the liturgies, hear God speak to us through his Word, and lift our voices in praise and thanks for the gift of Jesus our Savior, risen from the dead for us, we keep the joy of Easter and the resurrection in our hearts and lives.

Unfortunately, we sometimes think that Easter comes but once a year. We plan family gatherings, perhaps around a table spread with a grand dinner. We dress up with brightly colored spring clothes. There was a time when Easter called for a new hat for the ladies.

But it's more than that. The trumpets sound, the smell of the Easter Lilies fills the air, everything is bright and glorious. Everyone is smiling and enjoying the anticipation of the celebration at hand. Christ is risen!

This stands in such stark contrast of how we left God's house on Good Friday. On that day, also called Black Friday, the Lord of Creation, the Savior of mankind, died. You and I and all mankind are the cause of his death. We aren't just the cause; we are the reason. Jesus lived the perfect life you and I fail to live every day. He suffered the punishment for our sin—those three hours on Good Friday afternoon remind us of what hell is really like. During those hours Jesus spoke but once when he cried out, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (MI 15:34)

Understand that hell is complete and total separation from God and his love. It is a concept we don't, we can't, understand, because while we live here in this world, we see evidence of God's love all around us. Yet despite what the world says, hell is a very real place, prepared for the devil and his evil angels. It has also now become the dwelling place of those who reject Jesus as the one and only Savior, the only way to eternal life in heaven.

But Jesus never sinned. Yet God punished him. Jesus willingly endured that punishment, so that you and I would never have to fear being punished in hell because our sin. And, when he had successfully endured the agony of hell and paid for our sin in full, the full power of sin still stung him. He died.

But thanks be to God says the apostle Paul. God ***gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!***

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Why? Because in this way God proved he had accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross in our place—as our Substitute. The threat and power of sin has been removed once and for all. The threat of death—eternal death, that is, hell—no longer holds any power over us. The devil has been rendered powerless.

Jesus has defeated our enemies for all eternity. We now stand here and for all eternity as the blood-bought children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. As God's own children, as brothers and sisters of our Savior, we don't live a life of fear; we live a life of rejoicing in the victory that is our through our Lord Jesus Christ!

So, for this reason, each week we gather for worship. We remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. We focus on him, the only One who gives meaning to our life, joy in living, and hope for a future in heaven with him.

Easter is coming. Please, come join us April 17 to celebrate the resurrection your Savior from the dead—for you. In the meantime come, join us each week and the weeks following this celebration, as we gather around his Word to be reminded and strengthened in our faith of who we are. We are his own. Live under him in his kingdom now on earth with the certainty of heaven that awaits all who are his by faith in the future.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!



JANUARY - MARCH 2022 MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

Home with the Lord - 3

- Dennis Schlueter
- Richard Rust
- Gary Lierman

Transfers out to other WELS - 4

- Hope Loersch to St. Mark's in Watertown, WI

JANUARY - MARCH 2022 MEMORIALS

AMOUNT	IN MEMORY/HONOR OF	FOR
\$70	Anna Schweger	General Fund
\$60	Dennis Schlueter	General Fund
\$20	Dennis Schlueter	Steeple Repair
\$50	Dian Paulsrud	General Fund
\$20	Diane Paulsrud	General Fund
\$345	Richard Rust	General Fund
\$1,185	Richard Rust	Steeple Fund
\$1,800	Richard Rust	Pew Bibles
\$50	Richard Rust	St. Paul's Choir
\$50	Jim Bloss	Cemetery Board
\$5	Gary Lierman	General Fund
\$10	Mother of Mike Beaupre	Building Fund

JANUARY - MARCH 2022 GIFTS

AMOUNT	FOR
\$450	Budget Deficit
\$610	Fuhrman Fund
\$3,553	Building Fund
\$250	Cemetery Board
\$275	Missions
\$375	Christmas Trees
\$500	Christian Family Solutions
\$500	School Science Kits
\$110	Budget Deficit
\$508	Youth Rally
\$100	General Fund
\$100	St. Paul's School
\$105	Easter Lilies



ST. PAUL'S
Lutheran Church & School