



The Watchman



April
2018

Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS

“A Note from the Pastor”

Alleluia! Christ is risen! This month begins with the greatest and most important day of the whole Christian year, the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. But Easter is not just a single day in the Church’s calendar – Easter is a whole season, one which lasts fifty days and ends with the holiday of Pentecost. It mirrors the time recorded in the Gospels and in Acts between Jesus’ rising and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We get to follow along in real time, as it were, as the disciples and all the earliest believers experience the delight of the resurrection, the wonder of Jesus’ various appearances to them, and the anticipation of what might come next in this new world of hope.

But nothing describes the season of Easter better than joy. It is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5, the product of faith grounded in the resurrection. 1 Peter 1:8 says, “you believe in him [Jesus] and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” Paul closes Romans with the prayer, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” And as he spoke to the disciples during the Last Supper, Jesus reassured them about the suffering he was about to endure, “So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

No one will take your joy from you! What a wonderful promise we have from the Lord. Indeed, we have our sorrows now, during this course of this life – during the Easter season no less than any other time of the year. The aches and pains of the world don’t go away depending on the Church’s yearly calendar. But the promise is also the same, throughout the year, but perhaps no time stronger than during Easter: your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

No one will or ever could take away this joy, because it is rooted in Jesus, in his resurrection from the dead; and in his promise of the same resurrection to eternal life that we, his faithful people, will share in when the time is right. It is the joy that made the apostles able to face persecution and hardship with songs and prayers on their tongues, knowing that nothing could happen to them that could make the slightest dent in the eternal joy they knew lay in store for them in Christ. In this Easter season, may your heart rejoice in the knowledge that no one can take from you the joy of Jesus’ resurrection.



**March Anniversary
& Birthdays**

l-r: Jody Heusman, Carl Erichsen, Frank Feazell,
Ruby Dale, Margaret Harrell & Susan Linn



Elders & Lay Readers

- 1 Frank Feazell & Louis Bontly (Jerold S.)
- 8 Dave Griffin & Shawn Robbins (Kyndel T.)
- 15 Jay Torries & Bobby Trehern (Judy W.)
- 22 Louis Bontly & Frank Feazell (Jody H.)
- 29 Shawn Robbins & Dave Griffin (Dave G.)



- 4 Cathy Groff
- 7 Preston Robbins
- 10 Gary Groff
- 11 John Schollian
- 16 Gerd Gunnufsen
- 16 Marion Brown
- 21 Janet Torries
- 22 Jannette Chisholm
- 25 Derek Waffel
- 25 Luke Waffel
- 27 Jerold Shepherd
- 30 Heather Pardue



- 2 Jannette & James Chisholm
- 7 Brian & Danielle Linn
- 5 Bente & Harrell Paul
- 30 Michael & Dee Kelley





Church Council Meeting: 3/19/2018

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order and Pastor Waffel opened with prayer. Motion made, seconded and carried to waive reading of the February minutes.

Pastor's Report:

A review of the activities of the previous month included:

The desert social which was well received and enjoyed by all; Wednesday evening Lent services; Pastor's presentation on the Reformation to the Church of Christ at their invitation; District Convention in Slidell where Eric Johnson was elected the new President (National convention to be held in Tampa, Florida, 2019); 3 Baptisms (Travis Poole family), 1 funeral (Peg Saegert) and 1 wedding (Jody and Tara Heusman).

Upcoming events:

Preparation for Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services (7:00 pm), Easter Sunday (services at 7:30 & 10:00 with Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunter between services); and, next presentation in the Library Lecture Series, Thursday, 3/22/2018 at noon.

President Report: none other than business below

Vice President Report: Kevin Rademacher was out of town but Council was reminded that the rosters for usher volunteers and alter flower donations posted in Memorial Hall.

Elders Report: Jay Torries reminded everyone that volunteers are needed to help set up for 'Sun Rise Service'.

Trustees Report: Jerold Shepherd reported that renovations to the supply room at the back of Memorial Hall are nearing completion thanks to the help of many volunteers led by Louis Bontly. Playground renovations are beginning with the installation of the initial group of new planks. Jerold hopes to address the peeling paint in the back of the church in the near future.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen reported contributions:

Total for February:	\$8,623.00
March to date:	\$9,760.75
Year to date:	\$25,931.75

Treasurers Report: Lin Jacobson reported a balance in the checking account at \$3,158 and sufficient funds to cover current debt and obligations although, as is typical, he reminds us that the upcoming summer months bring a reduction in contributions and we need to prepare for that period. New insurance coverage has been found which reduces the yearly premium by approximately \$100 and provides increased coverage for the Sanctuary and also includes fire coverage for Memorial Hall which had not been in place before. Increased liability coverage on both buildings is also included. This represents an increase in coverage with a decrease in premium. The company will also provide a quote on wind coverage for consideration.

Evangelism: no report

Mary Martha: Haley Torries reported that the 'Youth/Elder Room' has been transformed into a Parlor for use as needed for weddings, funerals, baptism or other occasions. The ladies are currently funding the repairs to the playground equipment and at completion of that project, hope to fund improvements to the parlor furnishings. The Lent In-gathering for Adrienne's House continues through the Lent season for delivery during Holy Week.

Youth Report: Dave Griffin reported that the Youth are coordinating the Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt and the sign-up sheet is posted in Memorial Hall.

Education Report: Cathy Groff reported that Sunday School classes continue. Kyndel and Haley Torries will coordinate the 'flowering of the cross' for Easter Sunday morning. A request will go out to the congregation to bring spring flowers for that purpose on Easter morning. With the vacation and wedding schedules this summer, Donna Krebs suggested a date for VBS be set as that time is quickly approaching. After a review the calendar and schedule of events, July 24, 25 and 26, 2018 were chosen for Vacation Bible School this year. A theme will be investigated.

Social Ministry Report: Cathy Groff reported that a bountiful lunch was provided for the family of Peg Saegert and was attended by 18 family members plus the church volunteers. Sufficient food was available to provide a sandwich lunch for the Heusman bridal party on Saturday. Due to budget and manpower constraints, Cathy reminded the Council that policy for such events is to provide a meal or food for the family, extended family and pallbearers whether the event is held in Memorial Hall or delivered to a private home. Home-Bound members include Milton Southern, Betty Andrews, Wanda Crowell and Marion & Thyne Brown.

Stewardship Report: To increase focus on stewardship beyond just financial contributions, Tim Krebs will be submitting a series of articles, “A Thought about Stewardship”, outlining four basic principles of stewardship in the next Newsletters.

Old Business: Ceiling repairs to the Sanctuary ceiling will require professional attention due to height of the ceilings and this will require a special effort as it is not within our capabilities to repair it ourselves. Discuss about the possibility of a Memory Garden for cremains was discussed as several other churches in our area are founding Gardens. Information on the process might be available from Congregations who have already done research into requirement. A special consideration for such a project is the official position of LCMS which is a preference that cremains be interred intact and not scattered.

New Business: 1) a new printer is needed for the office and Pastor will ask Mark Shulte to coordinate with Jan Torries to search for the proper replacement. 2) With the success of the Desert Social, there has been a suggestion for a Bingo social. Crystal Robbins will be asked to head up this event. 3) The possibility of a mid-week service was discussed. Considerations included whether such a service could be held weekly or monthly, involve a potential pot-luck type dinner and whether to have such a service mid-day or evening. This will be discussed with Congregation and if there is sufficient interest, further development will follow.

The meeting Was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.
Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Krebs for Susan Linn, Secretary

*Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet,
and a light
unto my path.*
Psalm 119:105

April Scripture Readings

EASTER	Apr. 1	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Sunrise</i>	Ex. 15:1–11	Ps. 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6b–8	John 20:1–18
	Apr. 1	The Resurrection of Our Lord <i>Easter Day</i>	Is. 25:6–9	Ps. 16	1 Cor. 15:1–11	Mark 16:1–8
	Apr. 8	Second S. of Easter	Acts 4:32–35	Ps. 148	1 John 1:1—2:2	John 20:19–31
	Apr. 15	Third S. of Easter	Acts 3:11–21	Ps. 4	1 John 3:1–7	Luke 24:36–49
	Apr. 22	Fourth S. of Easter	Acts 4:1–12	Ps. 23	1 John 3:16–24	John 10:11–18
	Apr. 29	Fifth S. of Easter	Acts 8:26–40	Ps. 150	1 John 4:1–11 (12–21)	John 15:1–8

Lutheran men come in all sizes!



Louis Bontly, Gary Groff & Peter Kooienga



Bridal Shower

In Honor of

Hannah Crowell

April 15, 2018 @ 2:00 pm.

Christ Lutheran Church

Hosted by

Anna & Donna Krebs

Bride and Groom are registered at
Target and Amazon

RSVP:

Donna Krebs - 228-327-8050

Mary Martha News

Your Mite Box Offerings Touch Lives!

NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless, and Hurting

\$100,000

Hurricane Katrina was the largest residential disaster in United States history. Twelve years later there is no more federal aid, and many inner-city communities are still hurting. New Orleans has the third highest homeless rate in the nation with 1,700 homeless persons every night, much of this due to the hurricane and loss of homes. Entire neighborhoods were wiped out. Many residents lost friends and family and still suffer from loneliness and depression. Six inner-city LCMS churches, their pastors, leaders, and members have come together to serve Christ by serving their neighbors and providing food and shelter. The NOLA 4H churches work closely with other organizations to support various outreach ministries such as food banks, clothing, toiletries, Bibles, prayer books, counseling, and clinics. Funds will go towards these ministries and equipping each of the fellowship halls in the six churches to serve more people.

Learn more about this grant and all 22 LWML Mission Grants on our webpage: www.lwml.org/mission-grants

Donna, who is homeless, attends Gloria Dei Lutheran Church regularly and volunteers in the food pantry, helping pack food bags for hundreds of hungry families served twice a week.



Meet the Southern District President-Elect

Congratulations!

Southern District President-Elect

Rev. Eric Johnson

Rev. Johnson is 53 years old and has been a member of the LCMS for 27 years, serving 4 in the Southern District. He was ordained at Faith Lutheran Church – Windsor, CA on June 23, 2002. He served as Missionary At Large/Church Planter at the California Nevada Hawaii District from 2002-2013.

District or Synod Position and Offices Held

- Southern Dist. Mission Executive/MMF
- Ex-Officio Southern Dist. Mission Committee
- Ex-Officio Southern Dist. Stewardship Committee
- Ex-Officio Southern Dist. Youth Committee
- CNH Dist. Mission Coach
- CNH Revitalization Visitation Team
- CNH Dist. Revitalization Coach
- CNH Dist. Mission Round Table



Brondum Krebs Update

Brondum is loving his African experience even if he doesn't love everything, everyday! He's one month into his three month training and the biggest challenge right now, other than getting used to repetitive food, is learning Bemba which is the language he will be using when he receives his permanent assignment. He has introduced his Host Family to his American banjo and he is now the rock star of his village! It's the rainy season in Zambia right now. The temperatures are mild, in the 70's-80's, but it rains at some point on most days. He says it reminds him a lot of Mississippi. Don't like the weather, just wait ... it'll change! He should receive notification of his permanent assignment in the next few weeks and is looking forward to that. Of interest, the fresh water well in his village (think of your grandfather's old hand pump) was donated by Alex Trebek of Jeopardy! fame. Thanks, Alex, for making sure the Peace Corp Volunteers have clean, fresh water! 27 month assignment minus 1 month = 26 months!

The Lord's Baseball Game

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a base ballgame. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails. The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love. The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run! The Lord's team won! The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on Base but only My Grace can get you Home.



A thought about Stewardship

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

I have found a very intriguing article written by Hugh Whelchel for the Institute for Faith, Work and Economics. I'd like to share these thoughts with you over the course of the next few months. None of these thoughts are my own but are paraphrased from the article “Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship” written by Mr. Whelchel in 2012. Perhaps you might find these ideas thought-provoking.

Whelchel points out that today too many Christians think about stewardship in terms of church budgets. At the Institute, they have developed the concept of stewardship at a point where faith, works and economics intersect. Whelchel points to an essay written by Bill Peel entitled Leadership is Stewardship. In his work, Mr. Peel points to four important principles about biblical stewardship. Let's look at each of the principles individually. This month:

Principle #1: The Principle of ownership

In the 24th Psalm it is written:

“The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

In Genesis, God creates the world and everything in it. He creates Adam to take care of the Garden. It seems apparent that man was created to work and that work was, itself, stewardship of all the creation God had made and given him.

This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship: God made everything, He owns everything and we were created as managers and administrators acting on his behalf to take care of that which he had created. Good stewardship reflects our obedience to God's will that we act as managers and administrators of everything God has placed under our control. We commit ourselves and possessions to God's service when we realize that we have no right to our property or even ourselves as all these things were, in fact, created by God.

So, if we say to ourselves: *My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.*” (Deuteronomy 8:17) We need to continue reading in Deuteronomy because any wealth we possess was not created by our own hand but rather “Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. (Deuteronomy 8:18)

Thanks for taking the time to consider this first principle. Next month, we consider the second principle of biblical stewardship: The Principle of Responsibility.



April

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Egg Hunt Holy Communion 10:00	2 Mary/Martha Meeting 5:30	3 SCORE 12-1	4	5	6	7 
8 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Birthday & Anniversary Fellowship: 11:15	9 	10 Circuit Meeting	11	12	13	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00
15 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15 Crowell/Dunlap Bridal Shower 2:00	16 Elders 6:00 Council 7:00	17 SCORE 12-1	18	19 Pastor at Open Door Board Meeting	20	21 
22 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15	23	24 Pastor on Vacation →	25 →	26 →	27 →	28 →
29 Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15	30 					

HE LIVES!
all glory to his name!
 HE LIVES,
my Savior, still the same.
 OH, SWEET
the joy this sentence gives:
 "I KNOW THAT
my Redeemer lives!"