

# THE PATHFINDER

Website: [www.ctslutheran.net](http://www.ctslutheran.net)

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Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

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## Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie "Rummaging for God"

*Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!*



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter? Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

*John 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.*

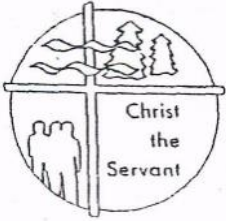
Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

*Rev. Laurie M. Olson*

[Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day - IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~



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## Pastor Gwen's April Office Hours:

Monday 1-4 PM

Wednesday 2-4 PM

No office hours on April 1st.

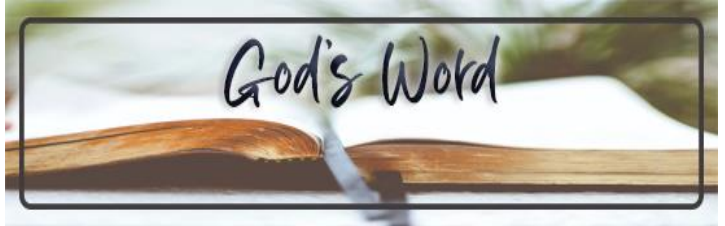


Woman's Group meets every Tuesday  
from 10AM -2PM.

No women's group on April 2nd.



Men's Group will meet  
Saturday, April 6th at 8AM.



## April Bible Readings

### April 7 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Eater

First Lesson	Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133	
Second Lesson	1 John 1:1-2:2
Gospel Reading	John 20:19-31

### April 14, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

First Lesson	Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4	
Second Lesson	1 John 3:1-7
Gospel Reading	Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Easter

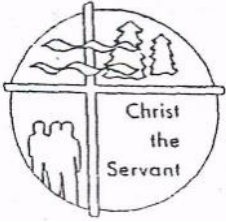
First Lesson	Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23	
Second Lesson	1 John 3:16-24
Gospel Reading	John 10:11-18

### April 28, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter

First Lesson	Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31	
Second Lesson	1 John 4:7-21
Gospel Reading	John 15:1-8



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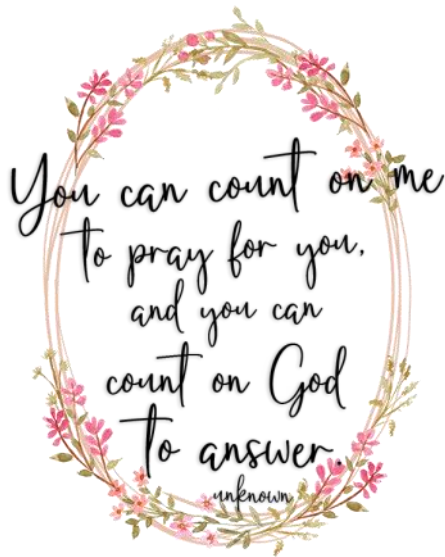
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*Please remember these people and requests in your prayers.*

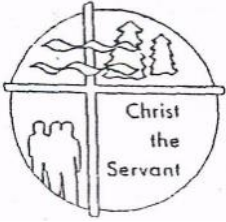
**Health/Concerns:** Olivia, Stephanie, Carrie, Meg, Allen, Betty, Tom, Nancy, Andrea, Bob, Carol, Lori, Leigh, Patty, Mary Jo, Debra, and Rich.

**Military:** Anton, Autumn, and Natalie.

CTS Church Council, Quilting Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, Men's Group, those who are struggling with hunger and injustice in the world, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace Ministry.



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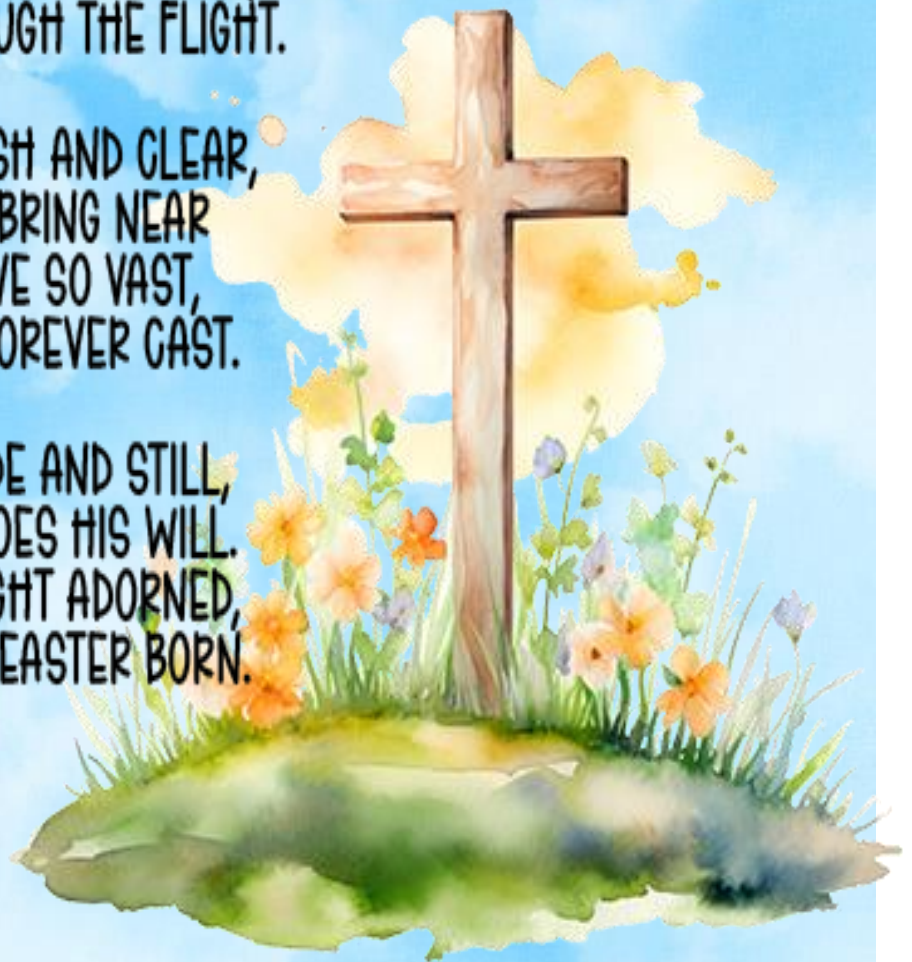
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DEW GLISTENS ON NEW LIFE BORN,  
ECHOES OF A RESURRECTION MORN.  
TREES STRETCH LIMBS IN SILENT PRAISE,  
GREETING THE SON'S REDEEMING RAYS.

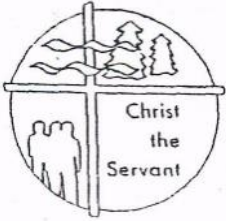
FLOWERS RISE FROM WINTER'S TOMB,  
IN COLORS BRIGHT, THEY BURST AND BLOOM.  
A CHORUS OF BIRDS, ON WING SO LIGHT,  
CARRY HIS MESSAGE THROUGH THE FLIGHT.

STREAMS OF MERCY, FRESH AND CLEAR,  
WASH AWAY THE OLD, BRING NEAR  
THE PROMISE OF A LOVE SO VAST,  
IN SPRING'S EMBRACE, FOREVER CAST.

UPON THIS CANVAS, WIDE AND STILL,  
GOD PAINTS HIS LOVE, DOES HIS WILL.  
EACH PETAL, LEAF, IN LIGHT ADORNED,  
SPEAKS OF THE HOPE IN EASTER BORN.



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**Bible Study:** We will be doing a new study after the "Lament" study is completed. No homework, just good Godly discussion. Come join us!

**Men's Group:** Men's group will be meeting over coffee and pastry on April 6th at 8:00 AM. The topic of study will be the Book of Job. All men are welcome to and encouraged to come!

**Flooring Survey:** By the end of the month, the Flooring committee will be discussing the results of the survey that was sent out. To have your opinions heard on the flooring in the Fellowship Hall, please complete a survey and turn it in to the office.

**New Member Class:** We are holding a new member class on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM for prospective members and those that might like to learn what it means to be "Lutheran" and belong to an ELCA congregation. We will also discuss how our little church puts Jesus' command of loving our neighbors into action in our community and beyond. All are welcome to join us.

**Sleep In Heavenly Peace:** This ministry in Park Falls continues to need donations of pillows, beds in a bag, quilts, and sheet sets. They are all twin size beds for youth, age 4 through 17, in our community with no bed of their own. To volunteer in the ministry, please see the Melvolds. To donate money, see Beth Melvold. Bedding can be dropped off any time in the church office.

**The Lord's Cupboard:** The pantry could use more volunteers to work once a month on a Saturday morning from 8:30 - 11:00 AM. You must be able to lift 35 pounds and work on your weekend! See Pastor Gwen if you are interested.

**Pictures:** We need pictures of CTS events to be in our history file. If you have any, please email them to the church or Pastor Gwen. You can also print them out in a 4x6 print. Please include what the picture is of, who is in it and the date if known.

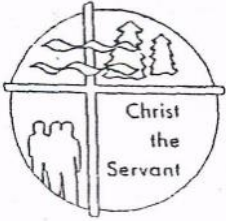


April Showers bring May Flowers.  
What do May flowers bring?

No, not Pilgrims but June bugs!!



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## Volunteer Schedule April, May & June 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Ushers
April 7th				
April 14th			Paul & Nancy Miller	Paul & Nancy Miller
April 21st	Kurt Wolff		Jen BeBeau	
April 28th				
May 5th				
May 12th				
May 19th				
May 26th				
June 2nd				
June 9th				
June 16th				
June 23rd				
June 30th				

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