

THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

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Phone (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS Volume 37 Issue 4 April 2021

Crosses We Don't Choose

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b



Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

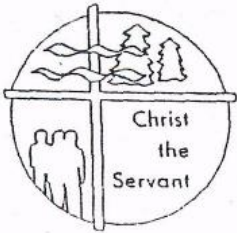
It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas
Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

"Christians Serving God By Serving Others"



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Office Hours for Pastor - April 2021

April 1st	No Office Hours
April 6th	2:00-5:00 pm
April 8th	9:00-12:00 pm
April 13th	2:00-5:00 pm
April 15th	9:00-12:00 pm
April 20th	2:00-5:00 pm
April 22nd	9:00-12:00 pm
April 27th	2:00-5:00 pm
April 29th	9:00-12:00 pm

Men's Group—Thursday

April 1st	No Men's Group
April 8th	No Men's Group
April 15th	5:00-6:00 pm
April 22nd	5:00-6:00 pm
April 29th	No Men's Group

Bible Study

Sunday following Worship

April 11th	11:00 am
April 25th	11:00 am

Women's Quilting Group—Thursday

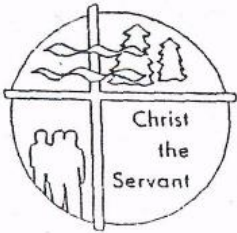
April 1st	9:30 am
April 8th	9:30 am
April 15th	9:30 am
April 22nd	9:30 am
April 29th	9:30 am

Sunday Tuesday School

April 13th	4:00 pm
April 27th	4:00 pm



“Christians Serving God By Serving Others”



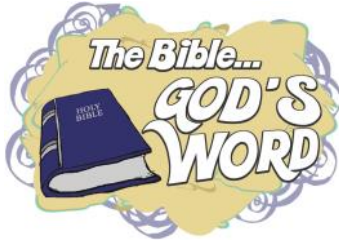
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April Bible Readings

April 4th, 2021– Easter Sunday

First Lesson Acts 10:34-43

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel Lesson Mark 16:1-8

April 11th—Second Sunday of Easter

First Lesson Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

Second Lesson 1 John 1:1—2:2

Gospel Lesson John 20:29-31

April 18th—Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

Second Lesson 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel Lesson Luke 24:36b-48

April 25th—Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

Second Lesson 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel Lesson John 10:11-18

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed...

James 5:16.

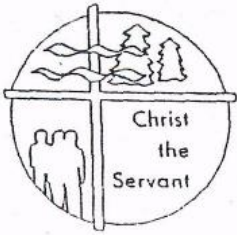
Please remember these people and requests in your prayers.

Health/ Concerns: Dale, Margaret, Tom, Mary, Renee, Frank, Ken, Shelia, Ann, and Jean.

Military - Anton, Allea Marrie and Natalie.

CTS Church Council, Men's Group, WELCA, Quilting Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, AIDS orphans in Malawi, Hunger and poverty in the world, and those struggling with the Coronavirus.

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Important Information

Men's group meets on Thursday evenings from 5:00-6:00 p.m. All men are welcome to join in. You can call Mike Roberts for more information.

Bible study continues on Sunday mornings after worship at 11:00 am after our coffee 1/2 hour. We are currently doing a study written by Max Lucado called Unshakeable Hope. See Pastor Gwen for more information or come join.

At the suggestion of our Worship Safety Team, we will be having Coffee ½ Hour after worship on Sundays beginning on April 11th. It will go from the conclusion of worship until 11:00 am sharp. Bible study to follow. Please note the new sign up sheet on the bulletin board and feel free to sign up to host coffee ½ hour. Please keep it simple with one or two sweet treats, coffee and juice. Masks are still suggested when you are not eating or drinking.



Easter Brunch-We will be having a pot luck on Easter Sunday immediately following Easter worship. Please sign up on the bulletin board with the number in your family attending and what food you would like to bring to share. And again when you are not eating or drinking we suggest that you wear a mask and socially distance as much as is possible.

Ladies mark your calendars for April 19th! We will be having a WELCA meeting at 1:00 pm on Monday, April 19th. The meeting will take place at Sweet Brew in Park Falls. Please submit agenda items to Lori Becker by April 16th. Questions, please see Lori.

Mark Your calendars to attend:

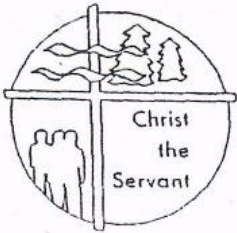
Maundy Thursday April 1st 6:30 pm Holy Communion

Good Friday April 2nd 6:30 pm Tenebrae

Easter Sunday April 4th 9:30 am Holy Communion



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Easter Story

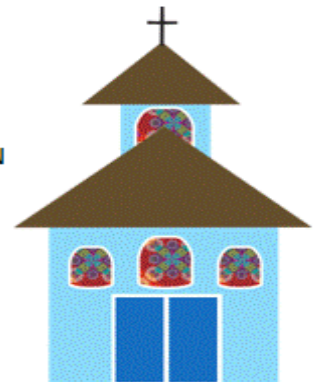
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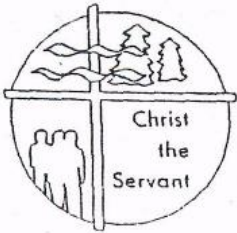
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 DISCIPLES
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SAVIOR
 SON
 THORNS
 TOMB



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Worship Volunteer Schedule April –June 2021

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Greeter/Usher
April 4th	Barb Schindhelm	Margaret McCulloch	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	Margaret McCulloch Rodney Downing
April 11th	Mary Rusch		Paul & Nancy Miller	Paul & Nancy Miller
April 18th	Chuck Schindhelm			RB & Beth Melvold
April 25th				
May 2nd				Chuck & Barb Schindhelm
May 9th	Barb Schindhelm			Mary Rusch David Shaw
May 16th	Mary Rusch			
May 23rd	Chuck Schindhelm			RB & Beth Melvold
May 30th				
June 6th				Chuck & Barb Schindhelm
June 13th				
June 20th	Barb Schindhelm			
June 27th				

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