

The Encourager

Service Times

Sunday Service

Breakfast.....	8:00AM
Sunday School.....	9:00AM
Morning Worship.....	10:25PM
Discipleship Training.....	5:00PM
Preschool & Children 's	
Classes.....	5:00PM
Youth Connect	
Groups.....	5:00PM
Evening Service.....	6:00PM

Wednesday Service

Supper.....	5:00PM
Adult Prayer.....	6:15PM
Children & Preschool	
Classes.....	6:00PM
Youth Service.....	6:00PM

Office Hours

Monday.....	8AM-5PM
Tuesday.....	8AM-5PM
Wednesday.....	8AM-5PM
Thursday.....	8AM-5PM

"HE IS RISEN!"

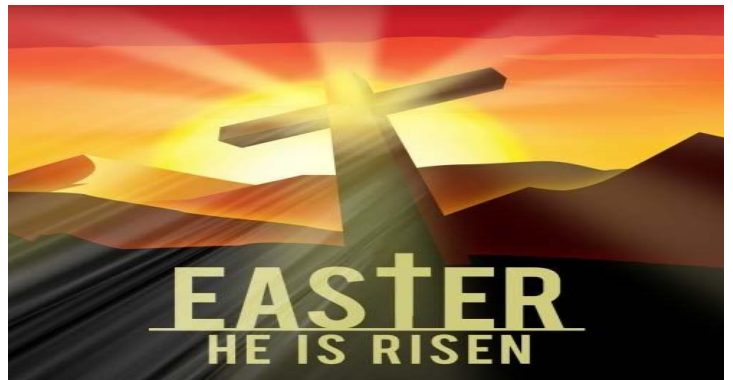
(Note: This was in my files from a few years ago. I don't know if I wrote it or if someone else did. Nevertheless, enjoy this perspective on the new life in Christ made possible because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus!)

We celebrate Easter because it didn't end at the cross!

On that resurrection Sunday morning, the Risen Lord Jesus encountered Mary Magdalene in the garden where the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea was located. It was the tomb he had prepared for himself in which he laid Jesus' body.

The Bible tells us that at that beginning point of history, back at the beginning of Genesis, it was in that other garden—the garden of Eden—where the woman ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and when the man ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, in direct disobedience to God's command to them. And a curse came up on the universe. The curse of sin! On all people and all creation. Now they would die! And they would fight thorns and of thistles for every bite of food.

What the gospel of the resurrection tells us is that Jesus took that curse upon



himself. He was a dead body, he was a corpse, he was under the bondage to corruption and decay, and Mary expected to find him in that condition. Instead, she finds angels announcing his resurrection!

All that Adam and Eve's sin and rebellion brought on mankind in the first Garden had to be conquered/redeemed in the second Garden if we were to have any hope of coming back into fellowship with Almighty God, and spending eternity with Him in His kingdom.

In the first garden, sin brought alienation. Yet in the second Garden, something is different. In the first garden, sin brought condemnation. Yet in the second Garden, Mary encounters the One who can set up free from our condemnation!

Mary isn't a cardboard cutout figure in the Bible. Scripture says when Jesus first met Mary she had seven demons within her. But Jesus knew her and Jesus loved her; reached out to her; delivered her; forgave her; redeemed her! She was the first person He spoke to after He rose from the dead!

Because of the cross and the empty tomb, we don't have to live under the cloud of alienation and condemnation! Because of Easter, if we repent of our sin and turn to Christ as our Lord and Savior, like Mary Magdalene we can be forgiven; delivered; and redeemed!

Happy Easter,
Bro. Neil



Dear Church Family

The Children's Eggstravaganza was a success! Thank you to everyone who provided candy and filled eggs. The Gospel was presented along with the egg hunt.

Mark Your Calendars:

VBS 2018:

Mark your calendars, VBS is June 4-8 from 9am to 12pm. This years theme is Game On! Please start praying about how you can serve the children during this event.

Starting April 8th there will be sign-up sheets for the following ways to serve:

- * Teachers
- * Assistant Teachers
- * Kitchen Crews
- * Rec Leaders

We will also need Sound and Video techs during this week.

Children's Camp:

Children's camp is July 16-19. Camp this year will be held at Clara Springs Camp in Pelican, LA. The total cost is **\$170.00** with a **deposit of \$50 due no later than April 25th**. This camp is for children who have completed the 1st-5th grade by this summer.

Serving In Him,
Amanda Wilson
Preschool/Children Director

Regular Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School.....9:00am
Nursery.....9:00am
Worship.....10:15am

Nursery.....5:00pm
Mission Friends.....5:00pm
GA's & RA's.....5:00pm
Worship.....6:00pm

Wednesdays

Nursery.....6:00pm
Kids Worship.....6:00pm

Contact Information

Email: awilson@firstcal.org

Phone: Office: (318) 644-5101

Cell: (318) 245-9978





We are starting off April with Easter. We are remembering Christ and his sacrifice for us. That he took the punishment for our sin so that we would have access to God. That Jesus defeated sin and death for His glory and for our redemption. What an amazing way for God to demonstrate both His love and His wrath, His forgiveness and His justice, His mercy and His authority. What if we were to truly live in a way that reflected the fact that we have received these gifts? I mean really, when you look at your life right now, would you say that your actions glorify God? That your life honors the sacrifice that Christ made for us? That you are characterized by a love for Christ above all else? Take some time and dwell on this. Contemplate your life in light of Jesus.

VBS:

June 4th-8th is this years VBS- see Ms. Amanda to sign up to serve. There are many ways that you can help out for VBS.

Cross Camp:

July 16-21 Cost is \$255. Deposit of \$127.50 due April 15th. Students are selling chicken spaghetti fundraiser tickets for April 6th lunch. See a student to buy one. See ad in "Reach In" for more information. Pickup packets from Bro. Joey.

Bahamas Mission:

For students who have completed the 9th grade and adult chaperones. June 11-17th.

You can pay for any of the above trips in advance. Turn your money into Bro. Joey and we will keep a record of your payments.

Love, Peace and Chicken Grease!

BRO. JOEY

Student Pastor, First Cal

Things To Check Out

Music:

"Good News" Rend Collective

"Prayers of the Saints" Sovereign Grace Music

Books:

"The Cost of Discipleship" Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Book of the Bible:

New Testament- John

Old Testament- Song of Solomon

Weekly Schedule

Monday Night Basketball-6:30-9:00pm

Wednesday Worship-6:00-7:15pm

Sunday School- 9:00-10:15pm

Sunday AM Worship Service @10:25pm

Connect Groups-Sundays @ 5:00pm

Devotional Apps

Daily Devo
Shane and Shane



Solid Joys
John Piper



First 5
Proverbs 31



Student Ministry Contact

Email: janwar@firstcal.org

Cell: 318-573-9580

Check us out on facebook:

(www.facebook.com/firstcalstudentministry)

Twitter at:

@fbCalStudents

Friend us personally if you wanna chat with Rach or myself on:
www.facebook.com/joey.anwar or on

Instagram-janwar and rachelanwar

FIRST CAL



WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

Our world mission offering is designed to make donating to Georgia Barnette, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and David Terry easier. When you donate money to the World Mission Offering a percentage will go to each of the above listed missions on a monthly basis. See the breakdown of percentages listed below.

Lottie Moon.....50%

Annie Armstrong.....30%

Georgia Barnette.....15%

David Terry.....5%

**Below are the World Mission
amounts for the dates of:
3/1/18–2/28/19**

Lottie Moon.....\$697.50

Annie Armstrong.....\$418.50

Georgia Barnette.....\$697.50

David Terry.....\$69.75

Total for World Mission.....\$1,395.00

April Birthdays

1st	Dorothy Heacock Sam Johnston
2nd	April Lingenfelder Avery Hancock
3rd	Mallory Russell Grace Cummings
4th	Markaye Russell Austin Ashley
5th	Gayle Bradshaw Danny Watt Landon Johnson
7th	Amelia Purdy
8th	Joyce Puckett
11th	Donnie Burton Randy Brown
12th	Lisa Bryan
13th	Ken Bryan
15th	Brittney Jones
16th	Faye Brown Jordyn Neal
17th	Nancy Huey Janssen May Mickey Nichols
18th	Terry Shrader
20th	MaKray Phillips Josh Greer
22nd	Sadie Purdy Mark Summerville
23rd	Marty Ballard
24th	Scott Bielkiewicz Kelsey Simon
25th	Ryan Redding
27th	Carole Johnson John Blakely
29th	Kalan Chamblee
30th	Robert Forrest Richard Puckett Donald Bradshaw Ben McQuillin Brent McQuillin