

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

THE PATHFINDER

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

THE PRICE OF BEING A FOLLOWER

Written by: Lori Anderson

Being a faithful follower didn't come without its challenges.

Jesus warned that following him would not always be easy. He warned his followers that they would be insulted and mistreated because of him.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me." Matthew 5:11

He warned them that they could even face death because of their association with him.

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me." Matthew 24:9

It doesn't cost us anything to follow our favorite people on Twitter or Instagram; but Scripture assures us that it will cost us something when we follow Jesus.

Philippians 1:29 tells us that we have not only been given the privilege of trusting in Christ, but also the privilege of suffering for him. For some, the cost is very high.

FICKLE FOLLOWERS

But many of the early followers were not as confident as Farrukh . When following Jesus became difficult and dangerous, those who were merely sensation seekers began to disappear. The fair-weather followers fled when it was no longer pleasant or profitable for them to follow Jesus.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP.

9:30 AM | Sunday Worship

10:30 AM | Coffee & Fellowship

11:00 AM | Bible Study

Christians Serving God by Serving Others.



PASTOR'S MARCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAYS: 1 – 4 PM
WEDNESDAYS: 2 – 5 PM

NO OFFICE HOURS ON
APRIL 6TH.

GRATITUDE

GOD, WE COME BEFORE YOU WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST. WE THANK YOU FOR HIS SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS AND FOR THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE THAT HIS RESURRECTION BRINGS. MAY WE NEVER TAKE FOR GRANTED THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR LOVE FOR US, AND MAY WE ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR BLESSINGS.

IN JESUS' NAME.

Amen

*the
bible
is our
compass*

APRIL 2ND – MAUNDY THURSDAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: PSALM 145:15-17
EPISTLE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:15-17
GOSPEL READING: LUKE 22:14-22

APRIL 3RD – GOOD FRIDAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 53:1-6
EPISTLE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21
GOSPEL READING: JOHN 19:1-30

APRIL 5TH – EASTER SUNDAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: MALACHI 4:1-3
EPISTLE READING: 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13
GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 28:1-10

APRIL 12TH – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 2:14A, 22-32
PSALM 16
SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 1:3-9
GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

APRIL 19TH – 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 2:14A, 36-41
PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19
SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 1:17-23
GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

APRIL 26TH – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 2:42-47
PSALM 23
SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 2:19-25
GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

THE LORD IS MY
Shepherd
I SHALL NOT WANT
PSALM 23:1

Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH AT 9:30 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY: THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 6:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY: FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD AT 6:30 PM

Easter Schedule

EASTER SUNDAY: SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH AT 9:30 AM
EASTER BRUNCH FOLLOWING SERVICE



MENS GROUP

Men's Group will meet over coffee and pastry on Thursday, April 9th at 8 AM. We are studying the Book of Acts. Please see Scott Carpenter or Pastor for a book.



WELCA

The women's quilting group meets every Tuesday from 10 AM - 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Annual Meeting of the Synod is Saturday, April 25th in Rice Lake. This is an all day event. If you are interested in going, please speak with Pastor Gwen.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Lenten Bible study is complete. We will be starting a new series on April 26th. Stay tuned for the topic. All are welcome to join on Sundays at 11:00 AM, after coffee hour.



REMINDER

The council meeting will be on April 12th.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Christ the Servant opens the church to our community.

AA uses the church building for meetings on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

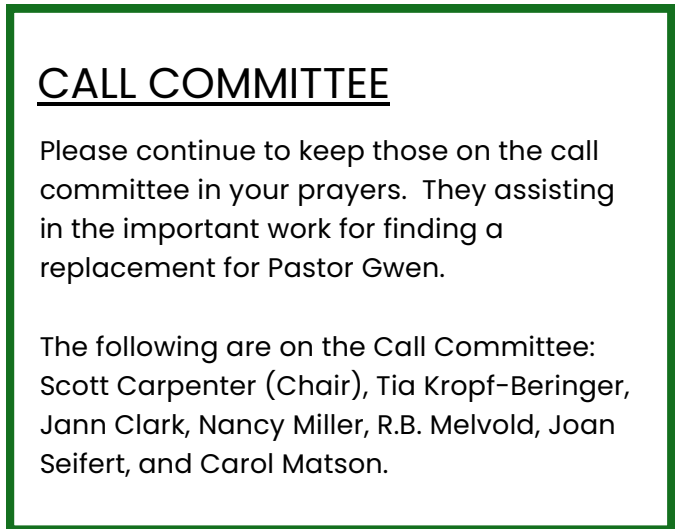
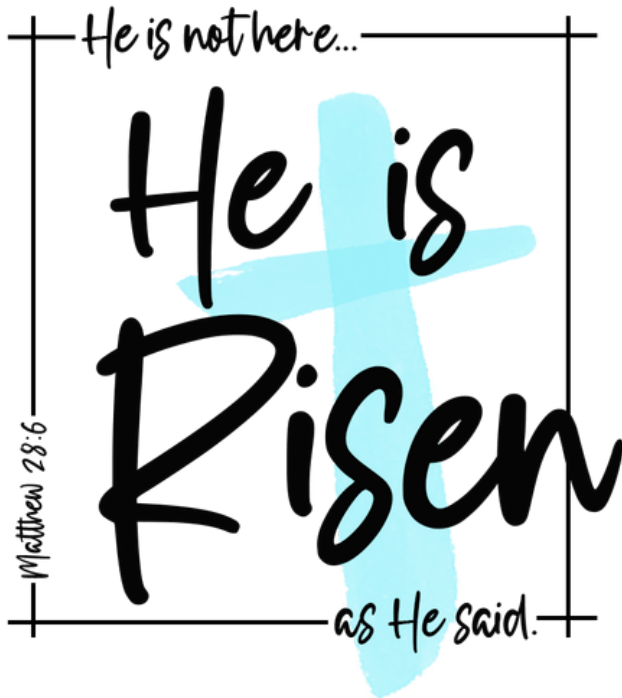
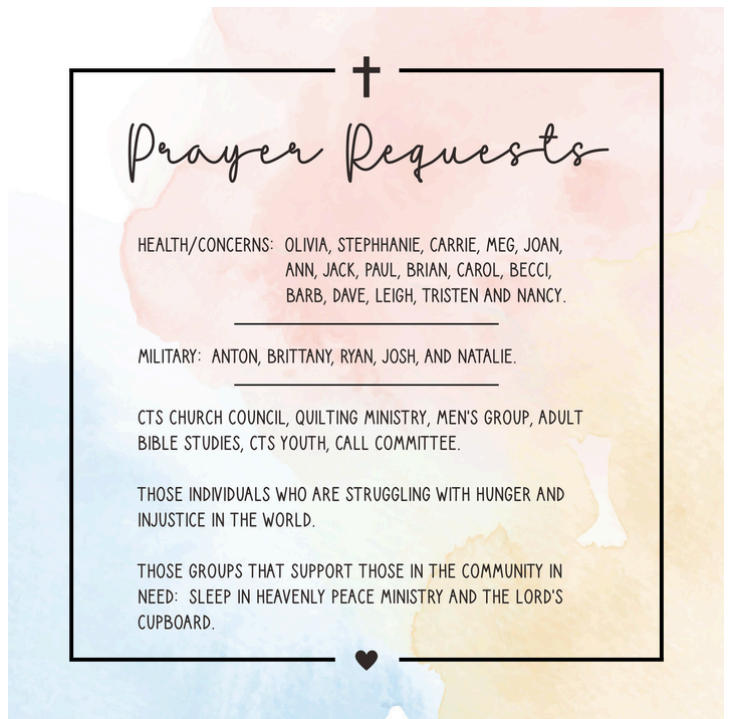
Limberg Counseling uses the building on Thursday and Friday for counseling appointments during the day. They use the room across from the church office and the room off of Fellowship Hall.

The community's Farmer Market sets up in the parking lot every Wednesday from May until October.

We are blessed to be able to support our community.

ASSISTANT BISHOP VISIT

On Sunday, April 19th, Rev. Randy Olson, assistant to the Bishop as the mobility director will be joining us for worship and to deliver the message that Sunday. He will join us for coffee and fellowship before meeting with the Call Committee.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

When Jesus hung on the cross, many of his more serious followers walked away.

“When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.” Luke 23:48

Even some of Jesus’ own disciples fell away at least temporarily – like Peter, who denied knowing Jesus when he feared for his life.

*You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?”
“No,” he said, “I am not.”
John 18:17*

But a loyal few followed unwaveringly. Mary Magdalene was one of those few. She stayed and looked on as Jesus was crucified. She was still there when they took Jesus’ body down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. She sat with “the other Mary” (who might have been the mother of James and Joseph who was at the cross with her) and she watched as they rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb.

A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER’S GREAT REWARD

Mary Magdalene was still following undeterred three days later. She returned to the tomb with “the other Mary” to put embalming spices on Jesus’ body; but when she arrived at the tomb, his body wasn’t there. Her breath caught in her throat. Grief gripped her heart. Tears filled her eyes. Her Lord’s body was gone! Someone had moved him. Who would do such a thing? She turned to run – and there, she came face to face with Jesus himself. She didn’t recognize him at first...until he spoke her name, “Mary, it’s me” (John 20:16). Jesus had risen from the dead, and faithful Mary, the Magdalene, was the first to see him. What a privilege – to be the very first! (And significant that the first to see Jesus risen was a woman.) What a joy to see his face!

This was her incredible reward: to come face to face with her beloved Jesus! Oh, how sweet that must have been.

And one day, if we choose to follow Jesus, this will be our great reward as well.

But it will cost you something.

It may cost you some relationships: friends who disagree with what you believe or just don’t feel they have anything in common with you anymore.

It may cost you your pride – when people ridicule you because they think their modern thinking is more enlightened and your faith is outdated and ignorant.

It may cost you family. When I first became a follower of Jesus, some of my family members avoided me because I was “one of those” religious people.

It cost Peter the disciple everything. Even though he faltered on the night Jesus was crucified, he eventually found his footing and faithfully followed Jesus for the rest of his life. It eventually cost him his life. Nero executed Peter for following Jesus.

The cost may be high; but be encouraged, your reward will be great. Like Mary, you will be freed from the things that hold you. You will enter the kingdom of heaven, and you will see Jesus face to face – just as the faithful follower Mary Magdalene did – and...

Jesus will call you by name.





THE EASTER HOLIDAY MASHUP

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

One Easter morning, a Sunday school teacher decided to see how much her class knew about the true meaning of Easter. One of the little girls quickly raised her hand. "Yes, Sarah?" the teacher called.

"Easter is when all of my aunts and uncles come to my house to eat turkey, watch football, and take naps," she said.

"No, Sarah, that's Thanksgiving." Another student raised his hand. "Yes, Billy?" she asked.

"Last Easter, we decorated a tree, sang songs, and got lots of presents," he answered.

"No, Billy, that was Christmas," she replied. The teacher was getting a bit nervous now. "Does anyone know what Easter is?"

"I know," little Emily said, confidently standing to her feet. "Easter is a special day to remember that Jesus was hung on a cross, died, and put in a tomb for three days."

"Very good, Emily!" the teacher said with a sigh of relief. "Now, class, we're going to..."

"And on the third day, everyone gathers around the tomb," Emily continued. "And they wait to see if Jesus comes out, and if he sees his shadow, that means six more weeks of winter. If not..."

The teacher interrupted Emily before she could finish her speech, "Class dismissed!"





VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL AND MAY 2026

DATE	ASSISTING MINISTER	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	USHERS
APRIL 2ND MAUNDY THURSDAY	JANN CLARK			
APRIL 3RD GOOD FRIDAY	BARB SCHINDHELM			
APRIL 5TH EASTER SUNDAY	KURT WOLFF		POTLUCK	
APRIL 12TH			LAUREN & JEN BEBEAU	
APRIL 19TH				
APRIL 26TH			MIKE & GAIL WARGULA	
MAY 3RD				
MAY 10TH				
MAY 17TH				
MAY 24TH				

