

GIFT of GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE NOTES

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 3, 2024

A WORD FROM PT

Ostriches actually don't bury their head in the sand thinking they can escape danger. But they do dig holes in the sand and stick their heads in the hole. This is because they dig in the ground to make a nest, and they will stick their head in the hole to turn the eggs.

No, it's not ostriches that think that if they cannot see danger then they must be safe from danger. That attribute actually falls to human beings!

You would think that there could not possible be a more pressing issue than investigating, so much as it is possible, as to whether there is credible evidence for the Easter claim, that Jesus rose bodily from the

tomb on the third day. With the state that He was when taken down from the cross, it is not scientifically possible that He rose and was in the amazing condition He was witnessed to have been by over 500 people over the course of 40 days.

There is a lot of compelling evidence to suggest, as unlikely and unbelievable as it may seem, that nothing short of this miracle took place. But does everyone want to actually investigate this matter and consider the evidence? No. And it appears that many do not want to. Why?

Why? This is easy to answer. If there is a good chance that this extraordi-

nary event took place, then everything that Jesus claimed is likely to be true as well. He claimed to be one with the heavenly Father. He claimed that indeed Scripture is the Word of God, and it cannot be broken, unbound, or dismissed (Jn 10:35). He claimed that He is the way to the Father, and that no one comes to God but through Him (Jn 14:6). And He promises to return to righteously judge the world.

Friends, Jesus' resurrection would prove that He is Lord over all, Lord over the living and the dead, and that we belong to Him and are to live for Him. We dig a hole and stick our head in it for a different reason than the ostrich.

SINCE YOU ASKED...

How are we to understand the Easter Feast?

"Easter is to be understood as the crown of the whole year, the queen of feasts, and as such it lasts not for a day, not for a week, but for a week of weeks – a week

not made up of seven days but of seven weeks.

So the Sundays of this season are called the Sundays of Easter. It is one extended feast. ... The Gospels for the Sundays of Easter present the themes of resurrection, ascension, and the

sending of the Holy Spirit as aspects or stages of the Easter Mystery..." (from the *Manual on the Liturgy a companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*, publ. by Augsburg)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 4/4
9:30am Prayer Gathering

Friday, 4/5
7am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
10am Service at the Care Center

Sunday, 4/7 Second Sunday of Easter
8am Choir Practice
9am Divine Service with Communion
10:15am Fellowship
10:45am Education Hour

Tuesday 4/9
5:30pm Ladies Night Out at Su Casa

Wednesday, 4/10
5:30pm Confirmation Class



**Making
Disciples
for Life**

LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) (LCMS.org)

THIS AND THAT...

The first of the seven weeks of the Easter Season is known as **Bright Week** or the **Octave of Easter** (or eight days). It is noted especially for feasting. Just as fasting belonged to the Season of Lent, so feasting is celebrated in honor of the joy of Christ's resurrection.

The Thursday **Prayer Gathering** and the Friday Morning **Men's Breakfast Bible Study** resume this week after having been suspended for Holy Week last week.

 The **Ladies Night Out** will meet on Tuesday, April 9 this month. They will gather at Su Casa in Holmen at 5:30pm.

Confirmation Class starts up again on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:30pm

 Don't forget non-perishable **Food Donations** for the Food Pantry!

 It is yet to be determined who will be cleaning the church

the week of April 21. The Betlachs are scheduled for the week of May 19.

 The April **Designated Benevolence** is for the **Youth Camperships**.

 Evidence in a court of law doesn't actually prove with total certainty innocence or guilt. Rather, it proves this beyond a 'reasonable doubt'. Have you checked what kind of evidence there is for the claim that Jesus rose from the dead?

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. - Eph 2:8

HUMOR DEPARTMENT

Celebrations

Birthdays

Apr 1 Jarrod Roll
 Apr 7 Janie Uly
 Apr 9 Leslie Duesenberg
 Apr 23..... Craig Bartos
 Apr 23..... Tim Duesenberg
 Apr 23..... Heide Traver
 Apr 25..... David Bjornstad
 Apr 29..... Calvin Swaney

Anniversaries

Apr 27..... T&P Betlach

The Wisdom of Children

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

 A little girl, dressed up in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" she prayed. The next thing she realized was that she tripped on the curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. As she got up and started running again she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late ...

but please don't shove me either!"

 A little boy became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, he leaned over to his mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

tbd (to be determined)

4/7 Second Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Mike Meunier
Reader: Naomi Rislow
Crucifer: Elliott Cunningham
Acolyte: Regan Cunningham
Ushers: Paula Betlach
Counters: Dan M/Naomi R
Comm Asst: Mike Meunier
Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: Leslie Duesenberg
Livestreamer: Cole Warner

4/14 Third Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Tom Rislow
Reader: Connie Meunier
Crucifer: Stella Roll

Acolyte: Jed Roll
Ushers: Tim Betlach
Counters: Connie M/Tom R
Comm Asst: Tom Rislow
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: Jessica Schoonover
Livestreamer: Jed Roll

4/21 Fourth Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Karri Bjornstad
Reader: Mike Meunier
Crucifer: Chase Repaal
Acolyte: Carter Repaal
Ushers: David Bjornstad
Counters: Jarrod R/David B
Comm Asst: Jarrod Roll

Accompanist: Tom Rislow
Fellowship: N/A
Livestreamer: Jarrod Roll

4/28 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Asst Minister: Jeremy Schoonover
Reader: Jarrod Roll
Crucifer: Benjamin Roll
Acolyte: Dawson Staff
Ushers: Jarrod Roll
Counters: Cole W/Tim B
Comm Asst: Jeremy Schoonover
Accompanist: Leslie Duesenberg
Fellowship: tbd
Livestreamer: Jeremy Schoonover

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
 Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg, STS
 642 Western Avenue
 Holmen, WI 54636
 www.giftofgracelc.org
 giftofgracelc@gmail.com
 (608) 668-1587

Services held at 9am at:
 642 Western Avenue
 A block north and then
 a block west of King Furniture