



The Forward

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Www.stmarksheboygan.com

April 2023



Worship and Bible Study Programs in April

- You can watch a live stream of Sunday's service at Facebook.com/stmarksheboygan.com
- The sermon will be recorded and available after Sunday's service on our website
- Maundy Thursday Service will at 6:30pm on April 6th. Good Friday will be also @ 6:30pm on April 7th. Bible study will continue to be held every Sunday @ 10am and Wednesday @9am
- Men's Bible Study Tuesday mornings at 7:00am
- Monday Morning Bible study online on the website and YouTube @ [YouTube.com/@st.markchurchsheboygan](https://www.youtube.com/@st.markchurchsheboygan)

From The Pastor

"Life at Death!"

*"Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised."
Matthew 27:50-52 (NRSVUE)*

I've always wondered why this small detail doesn't get more notice? Many people came back to life on the day Jesus died! That's a big deal! In all the Easter weeks I've spent in church, never once do I remember a single mention of the life that began at the very moment that Jesus died. Each year when Good Friday arrives, the sky seems to hang lower, the atmosphere subdued by the weight of the universe and eternity and loss. We can't wait for Easter Sunday, when we can rejoice over Jesus' victory. The hope of Easter brightens the darkness of Good Friday.

I've always thought in the past that the Father waited until Easter to proclaim Christ's victory over death and the grave, but it wasn't! He began bringing His people back to life immediately! Eternal rebirth for humanity began immediately after Jesus paid the ultimate price for us.

Jesus won, a truth that for sure means life! Eternal life in all its healing, saving glory began on Good Friday. Whatever the day and Holy Week looks like from your perspective, whatever season of happiness or sorrow you are in, celebrate the gift of life at death that Jesus brings to you this day and into eternity! As always, looking forward to seeing you all in church and Bible studies!

Rejoicing in Jesus' victory for us,
Pastor Tyler Werner

April Happenings

- Monday, April 3rd:** Deacon Mtg @ 6:00pm
- Tuesday, April 4th:** Outreach Mtg @ 5:30pm
- Monday, April 10th:** Trustee Mtg @5:15pm
Council Mtg @6:00pm
BOD Mtg @ 7:00pm
- Sunday, April 16th:** Congregational Fund Mtg @10:15am
Sunday School @10:15am
- Wednesday, April 19th:** R & R @ Riverdale Country Club
- Wednesday, April 26th:** Stewardship Mtg @ 10:00am
- Sunday, April 30th:** Voter's meeting, following the morning service



April 2nd: Palm Sunday Service at 9am with a potluck brunch following the service in the fellowship hall.

April 3rd-5th: Spoken Divine service w/ Holy Communion at 10:00am

April 6th: Maundy Thursday service w/ Holy Communion at 6:30pm

April 7th: Good Friday Service w/ Holy Communion at 6:30pm

April 9th: Easter Sunday service at 9am. Prior to the service, a free breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall starting at 7:30am. Eggs, ham, sausage, hashbrowns, bakery, fruit and drinks are on the menu.

From The Board:

This month we celebrate the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the time most important for the Disciples to begin their ministry in sharing the word of God and the story of His beloved son, Jesus Christ. The death and resurrection of our living Lord was the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior. I want to share with you some information regarding this promise. My Mother-In-Law, Lois Koch, was a Sunday School Teacher for a number of years. She was well versed in the Bible as any minister. When she passed away, we were fortunate to receive one of her many Bibles. Besides wonderful notes written in her Bible, I also found the following- narrative she had written telling some of the many names by which we know our Lord and Savior. The message of Jesus Christ is the story of the Bible – it is the story of Salvation. The story of Jesus is the theme of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

He appears in Genesis as the Seed of the Woman
Exodus – He is the Passover of the Lamb
Leviticus – He is the Atoning Sacrifice
Numbers – He is the Smitten Rock
Deuteronomy – He is the Prophet
In Joshua – He is the Captain of the Lord of Hosts
Judges – He is the Deliverer
Ruth – He is the Heavenly Kingsman
In the six books of Kings – He is the Promised King
Nehemiah – He is the Restorer of the Nation
Esther – He is the Advocate
Job – He is my Redeemer
Psalms – He is my All and in All
Proverbs – He is my Pattern
Ecclesiastes – He is my Goal
Song of Solomon – He is my Satisfier
In the books of the Prophets – He is the coming Prince of Peace
The Gospels – He is Christ coming to seek and save
Acts – He is Christ Arisen
Epistles – He is Christ at the Fathers' Right Hand
Revelation – He is Christ returning and reigning

So, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us go out into the world and with resounding joy proclaim the Good News of the Bible to all. For as one of our Great Hymns proclaims, **“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”**. May the love of Christ live in each of us today and every day.

Happy Easter and God's Blessings!!

Submitted by Todd G, Chairman Board of Directors

R & R Luncheon

The lunch will be held at Riverdale Country Club on April 19th @ 11:30am. Please RSVP to Dennis or Bev Diener 920-564-2212. Everyone is welcomed to join!

Stewardship

Good works are because....

When your children were small, they would proudly bring you a piece of art, a drawing, that they wanted you to look at. You would praise your child, not because the artwork was a masterpiece, but because you were happy that your child was using his or her creative talents to make something. How many of you had a refrigerator full of artwork?

In the same way, God our Father is happy when we do good works for others, even though we may not have done the best job possible. We Lutherans are a strange group of Christians because of the way that we look at good works. On the one hand, Luther said that even our good works are tainted with sin. On the other hand, someone said, "Good works are good because the worker is good." What's going on here?

Luther made his statement about good works because he was debating Erasmus, a Roman Catholic scholar. Erasmus claimed that we help in our own salvation by doing good works. Luther claimed that we are saved completely and only by what God did for us, and we cannot help in our own salvation. He **WAS** not discouraging us from doing good works by saying that since our good works are tainted by sin, why do them at all? That would be like a parent not praising his child for his or her artwork because it is not the work of a master. Luther was simply saying that as far as helping our salvation is concerned, our good works are useless.

Luther did also say, however, that our good works are useful as far as our neighbor is concerned, and therefore, we should do good works. We should not be afraid to do good works just because we might not do a perfectly good job. God the Holy Spirit has blessed us Christians with time, talent, and treasure so that we might do good works for others, even if it is not a perfectly good work.

What about, "Good works are good because the worker is good?" Because we believe in Jesus as our Savior from sin, God considers us to be good. And because we are good in the sight of God, even our imperfect good works are good in the sight of God, just like your child's artwork is praiseworthy. People who do not believe in Jesus have some ulterior motive for doing good works, either to try to placate an angry god or to make themselves feel better about themselves. Our faith in Jesus makes all the difference.

Be a good steward. Don't be afraid to do good works for others. God is happy with you. God will be happy with what you do for others.

The Stewardship chart, formerly included in the forward, will in the future be provided to the members in a more confidential manner through your mailboxes.

Parish Nurse News

Hi from your Parish Nurse!

Being widowed is a time of transition, one that generates significant issues to your emotional, social, and physical health. Heartache can become real heartbreak. We have all heard stories about close-knit couples who have passed away within a brief time of each other. Researchers have identified this as the *widow-*

hood effect. A study in the *Journal of Public Health* identified that people had a 65% increased risk of dying within the first 90 days of losing their spouse. This was validated for both men and women. Another study from 2008 came to a similar conclusion. It found that surviving spouses had up to a 90% chance of dying within the first 3 months after the death of their spouse. I will be about the widowhood effect and how to cope with a spouse's death.

Researchers aren't sure what causes the widowhood effect. There are theories but no concrete evidence: **1) The physical and mental toils of being a caregiver.** The spouse may spend all their time taking care of their loved one instead of themselves by not taking their medications or keeping doctor's appointments. **2) The physiological impact of grief.** Symptoms of grief can encompass sleep disturbances, weight loss as well as lower immunity and illness. A 2018 study at Rush University showed that men and women living thru intense grief after the death of their spouse's death have up to 17% higher levels of inflammation in their bodies which have been associated with serious health problems such as heart attack and stroke. **3) A lack of social support.** This is particularly true if the surviving spouse depended on their partner to sustain an active social calendar and stay connected to family and friends. **4) Changes in living environment.** The remaining spouse may need to leave their longtime road to move in with a relative or to another living situation. This can impact the remaining spouse's mental and physical state. Here is information on Grief Share if interested. GriefShare is a Christian based, weekly seminar and support group designed to rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one. There is a video presentation each week with grief experts and people who have participated in GriefShare, discussion and a workbook for personal study and reflection. It lasts 13 weeks from April 12th-July 5^t., 10-11:30am. It will be held in the adult education room. The cost is \$20 for the workbook which will be returned when you complete the classes. Please call Carolyn to register.

Happy Birthday to You!

Maggie Heschke April 1

Amanda Louisier April 2

Mike Ogea April 3

Ben Sohr April 6

Dennis Diener April 7

Kara Thimmig April 7

Tim Becker April 9

Andy Lorbecki April 12

Emily Wiltzius April 15

LaVerne Brandy April 20

Jeni Rydz April 21

Bonnie Broder April 23

Margaret Hinz April 28


Happy Anniversary!

Chad and Sarah Fritz (29) April 9

Rocquie and Rebecca Stentz (40) April 21

Jeff and Julie Leffin (44) April 28

Jerry and Jane Gapinski (45) April 29



*May all your prayers be answered
and may you feel the Lord's
presence near you...
not only for Easter,
but always.*

Happy Easter!