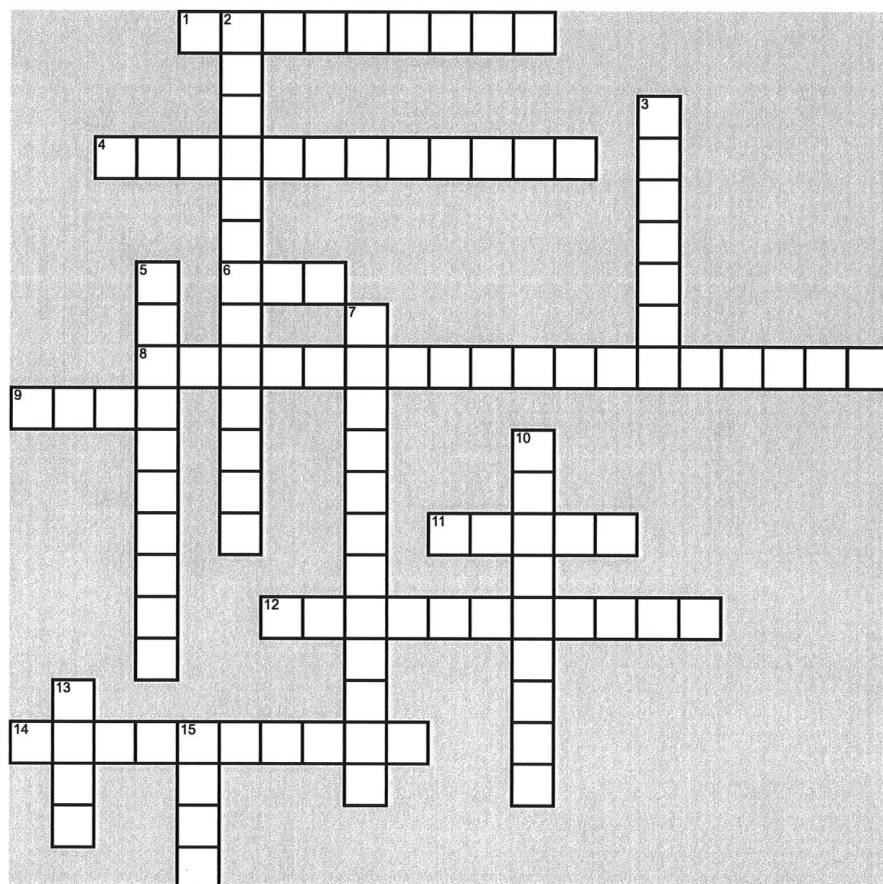


Bible Easter Word Search

K C T E K A M S R H T O A Q T L T J T S H P
L G D A B H C I A A O Z F S S P C X E U Z I
M A G P K K R M E P A W E S A A A B Z N M L
Q R M C M R U O S O B U E Q I C V A T D P A
Q O U B Q M C N C S L N C H U Y R I R A E T
F P F G F A I O R T O G N W F A J I O Y K E
P P W Q A R F F I L O O V R Q W T S F R G D
C A Z X H Y I C S E D L X E S S T T R I Y Y
R A S Y J F X Y E S N M S T N R B J E H C U
L L L S D Z I R N G O L G O T H A E W I L E
N R I V O R O E G O T D U M C R O S S G L Y
I G G C A V N N L P N Q X B Z A J U H H O Q
S Z K M J R E E V R I B L E F Q Z S V P L M
G Z N Z W G Y R S J T G R Y E D F D H R O O
R O B E R O M A N S K S O N O F G O D I X Z
T S Q B E N A I L S Y U H N Z M B A L E S V
P J B T H R E E D A Y S N S N G H G K S L N
N C F A N G E L S W S Z G W Q V C N M T D B



ROMANS
RISEN
SACRIFACE
THREE DAYS
ANGELS
SAVOR
GOLGOTHA
BLOOD
JESUS
ROBE
LAMB
TOMB
SON OF GOD
SIMON OF CYRENE
APOSTLES
CALVARY
CROSS
NAILS
MARY
CRUCIFIXION
PLATE
HIGH PRIEST
PASSOVER



Across

- 1 What did Mary find?
- 4 Thursday before Easter.
- 6 Who sacrificed his only son?
- 8 Pictures depicting what happened to Jesus.
- 9 40 days before Easter.
- 11 Died for our sins.
- 12 How Jesus died.
- 14 Friday before Easter.

Down

- 2 Found the tomb empty.
- 3 Voluntary punishment for sinning.
- 5 Last meal.
- 7 Saturday before Easter.
- 10 Jesus' friends.
- 13 Where Jesus was buried.
- 15 What do we do during lent?

THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2022

EASTER IN WAR

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. --- Romans 16:20

Easter is an act of war. It's an advance of God into the territory of the devil and the turning point of this conflict we call "human history." What Satan believed he had accomplished by luring us into death and hell, Christ overcame by rising from the dead. Between his death and resurrection, Jesus "descended into hell," as we say in the Apostles' Creed. He didn't go to suffer. Jesus' suffering was complete on the cross, when he said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Peter says by inspiration, "[Christ] went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison," meaning hell (1 Peter 3:19). Our Lord went down to proclaim that he was in charge and Satan was finished. Though we shouldn't get the impression that Satan was ever the CEO of hell. Satan will end up in hell, all right, but to suffer with the rest of the unrepentant! Jesus will say at the end of the

world to those who don't believe in him, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

God does not desire violence in the world, and even less does he want there to be hostility between him and us. Jesus Christ came to die in our place, as the sacrifice for our sins, so that God could dismiss all the accusations against us, which Satan loves to throw in our face so we'll believe we're beyond saving and beyond God's love. Yet, in the world God allows limited violence and even encourages it to put down greater violence and chaos. We feel for those spending this Lent and Easter in Ukraine, suffering under horrific earthly hardship as their country is invaded. Many people cheer on the under dog Ukrainian forces who are using violence to push out the destructive invasion. How those in Ukrainian cities long for the day when their invaders might be crushed and their homes will be peaceful and safe again!

Worship Service
Sunday at 10 a.m.

Youth Sunday
School 9 a.m.

Bible Classes
Sunday: 9 a.m.
Wednesday : 6:30 p.m.

Service Broadcast

- ♦ Sunday 8 a.m.
Radio WKCC 98.1 FM
- ♦ Monday 7 p.m.
Charter Cable TV channel 191

Church Office Hours :
Monday—Friday
10 a.m.—4:30p.m.

Office Phone:
(989) 652-6201

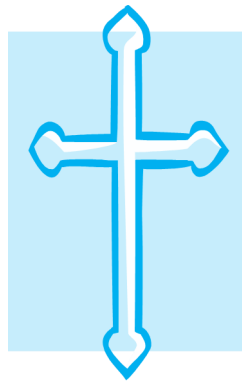
Pastor Patrick Ernst
(612) 845-9152

EASTER IN WAR (CONTINUED)

God promises in Easter that the invasion of Satan into our world is halted. It can go no further unless we allow evil to take refuge in our homes and in the dark corners of our hearts. As we approach Easter, we can look forward with certainty to the resurrection being commemorated and God crushing Satan under our feet. When our lot is cast in with Christ, his victory is our victory, and his bold trouncing of Satan is our confidence to march through hellish times in peace. We still wait for the final judgment, the final display when Satan, who was drug out into the open and beaten on Easter, will be crushed completely. Unlike earthly wars, where the outcome can almost always be swayed until the end, Easter is a historical fact, like the work of the cross. Easter is the war won and peace brought back to the land. Easter is God's peace of forgiveness, his grace, being broadcast to scared, war-weary ears. Your sins are forgiven. Jesus lives. Satan lost. There might not be blood on your shoes when you sit down to Easter brunch, but make no mistake. In Jesus' resurrection, we have all been given the power to stand up to the forces Satan has sent your way, crush them under your feet, and sit down to feast with the king. Happy victory day. Happy Easter.

~Pastor Patrick Ernst

Thoughts and Prayers



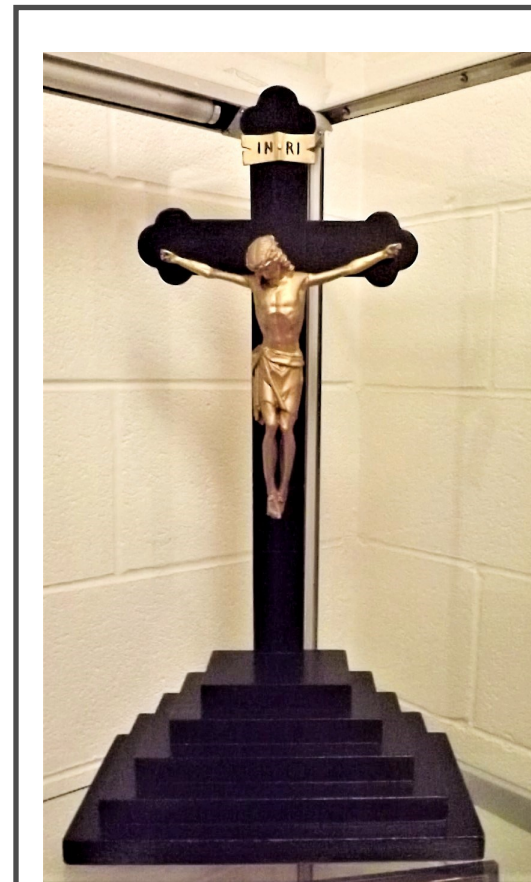
I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone~ for kings and all those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

The family and friends of Llorys Bosquet, Theo Conzelmann, Jan Danks, William Dudewicz and John Krumnauer, who have fallen asleep in Jesus, have given memorials in their memory. May God's comfort surround them and give them peace in knowing that their loved one has found eternal peace.

March Memorials:

General Fund: \$2,150.00



Altar Black Crucifer Cross

The history of the black Crucifer cross dates back to the time and tenure of Pastor Cares (1918-1932), according to Irene Zeilinger. At that time, the Zeilinger family became members of St. John's. Early pictures of the altar area show the black crucifer being used perhaps as early as 1918-1957. A new gold crucifer replaced the black one. It was given to the church by the Zeilinger family in memory of Mrs. Augusta Zeilinger. The crucifer is inscribed accordingly. Over the years a custom has developed of removing the gold crucifix and using the black one on the altar on Good Friday only. The Altar Guild has helped to perpetuate this custom. The black crucifer is kept in the Archives and removed once a year.



April's book recommendation by Jeremy Aiello:

The Impact Series: From Northwestern Publishing House
Here We Stand: A Confessional Christian Study of Worldviews
Curtis A. Jahn (Editor)

Written by expert pastors and theologians, this series provides a greater understanding of our present-day church and faith. Addressing a wide variety of important doctrinal and cultural questions, this series offers both clarity on difficult issues and practical applications for your spiritual life.

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther said, "Here I stand!" when confronted with the false teachings of his day. Not much has changed since then. Christians are tempted and confronted now more than ever. Christianity as a whole is under attack. How are we to respond? We need to understand differing views as well as our own faith so we can firmly say, "Here we stand!"

In the book *Here We Stand*, the authors use the truth of God's Word to examine such worldviews as Darwinism, Islam, New Age, atheism, pantheism (the view that everything is God—humans and all of nature), postmodernism, and the moral relativism that says anything and everything is "okay." By learning about other worldviews, Christians can better understand and witness to the people who hold those views. Readers will also see how such non-Christian worldviews influence their own beliefs, attitudes, and actions without their realizing it.

These books can be ordered at online.nph.net or you can see Jeremy Aiello for purchasing a copy.

St. John's Ladies' Spring Mini-Retreat

at St. John's Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth
Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A special inspirational and fun event for ladies hosted by the Planning Committee, and you are invited to Bring a Friend

Hot Breakfast

Message by Karen Grasel – "Navigating These Challenging Times"

History and Success of the Clothesline by Corinne Wellman and Gail Manntz

Group Activity

Devotional Message by Pastor Patrick Ernst

There is no cost for the event, but there will be a Free Will Offering and a collection of baby items (baby wash, baby lotion, sleepers size 0-3 months and 6-9 months) for Christian Life Resources of Saginaw Valley.

RSVP by Friday, April 15, to Dianne Voss, including your friend's name, by calling 989-652-9079 or emailing to muthvosses@yahoo.com.

TITHE YOUR TAX REFUND

This year, if you receive a tax refund and don't need it to cover your living expenses, consider spending 90% of it on whatever you'd like, and tithing, or giving 10%, to our St. John's Foundation. A contribution to our "Endowment Fund" or "Church Scholarship Fund" would help our church reach more people with the gospel and support Christian education for years to come, long after the rest of your refund has been spent and enjoyed.

The St. John's Foundation plays a unique role in our congregation by investing donated money and using the income on those investments to increase the impact of your donation. **To give to the Foundation, simply write a check to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation and designate in the memo line or on your offering envelope "Endowment Fund" or "Church Scholarship".**

In the Old Testament, God commanded his people to tithe their income, usually in the form of their crops and livestock, to support the work of the church (Leviticus 27:30, 32; Numbers 18:21). We are free from those ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. Jesus kept them for us, paying his due to the temple so we can be forgiven of our stinginess and set free to give out of love, not compulsion. We aren't obligated to give 10% of our income to the church or other charities, but Jesus and the apostles present giving as a natural part of the Christian life (Mark 12:41-44; 1 Timothy 5:17, 18). On average, Christians give 2.5% of their income to the work of the church. For comparison, during the Great Depression that average was 3.3%! Tithe your tax refund, as "A gift that will keep on giving, so that 'future generations will be told about the Lord' Psalm 22:30" (St. John's Foundation Brochure).

jus·ti·fi·ca·tion

Do you justify God?
or

Does God justify you?
During hard times we need a reminder of
our faith.

The ground must be kept firm and unshaken, that faith alone, without works, without any merit, reconciles us to God and sanctifies us, as St. Paul says, "But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed" (Romans 3:21). This and other similar sayings we must firmly rely on and not be moved, for they say that forgiveness of sins and justification are granted to faith alone without works.

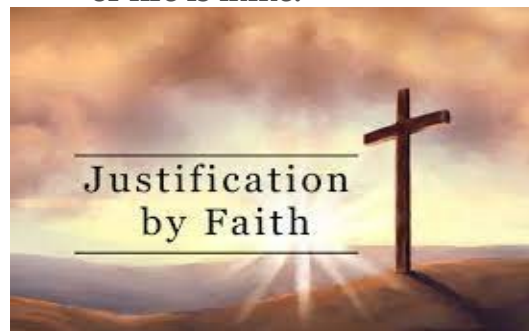
Consider the parable Christ gives Matthew, "Every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit" (Matthew 7:17). There you see that it is not the fruit that makes a tree good, but the tree must be good, or be made good, before it bears good fruit.

Thus it is undoubtedly true that we must be justified without any good works and before we can do any good works. Therefore it is certain that there must be something greater and more precious than all good

works, which makes us saintly and good, before we can do what is good, just as we must be sound in body before we can do sound work. The same great and precious thing in the noble Word of God, proclaimed in the gospel, that offers us the grace of God in Christ. Whoever bears and believes it is made saintly and just. Therefore it is called a Word of Life, of grace, and a Word of forgiveness. But whoever does not hear and believe it can not be sanctified in any other way.

Sermon by Martin Luther on Unrighteous Mannom.
WA 10/3:283f

**By grace I am an heir of heaven;
Why doubt this, O my trembling heart?
If what the Scriptures promise clearly
Is true and firm in every part,
this also must be truth divine; by grace a crown
of life is mine.**



Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

Small Catechism

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Large Catechism

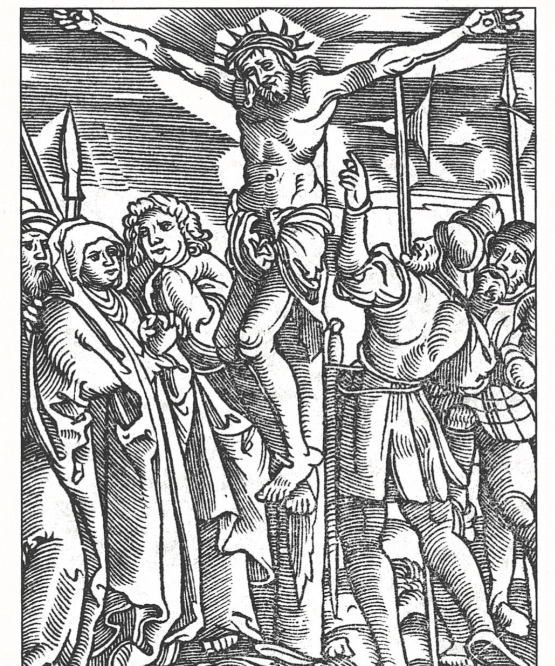
Here we get to know the second person of the Godhead, and we see what we have from God over and above the temporal goods mentioned [in the first article], namely, how he has given himself completely to us, withholding nothing.

We shall concentrate on these words, "in Jesus Christ, our Lord." What is it "to become a lord"? It means that he has redeemed and released me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all misfortune. Before this I had no lord or king, but was captive under the power of the devil. I was

Confessions Corner

condemned to death and entangled in sin and blindness. There was no counsel, no help, no comfort for us until this only and eternal Son of God, in his unfathomable goodness, had mercy on us because of our misery and distress and came from heaven to help us. Those tyrants and jailers have now been routed, and their place has been taken by Jesus Christ, the Lord of life, righteousness, and every good and blessing. He has snatched us, poor lost creatures, from the jaws of hell, won us, made us free, and restored us to the Father's favor and grace.

Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word "Lord" simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and keeps us there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished.



CHRIST CRUCIFIED
(JOHN 19)