

Spirit of the Redeemer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

April 2017

He is Risen!

He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

O, where is you sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
(C. F. W. Walther, "He's Risen, He's Risen," *LSB* 480:1, 4)

– Pastor Young

The Triduum

Thurs., Apr. 13 – Holy Thursday, 7 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 14 – Good Friday, 7 p.m.

Sat., Apr. 15 – Vigil of Easter, 7:30 p.m.

***** Easter Sunday Divine Service, April 16, 10:30 a.m. *****





Growing In Christ Sunday School

April 2017

Lent 5 April 2

If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13

Peter Denies Jesus *Mark 14:26-72*

On this Sunday, the Sunday School lesson studies “Peter Denies Jesus.” Though we, like Peter, deny Jesus and His gifts, Jesus cannot deny us, because we are part of Him, baptized members of His own Body. Instead, He forgives us and welcomes us back. Consider asking, “*How does Peter’s denial affect him? In what ways does God forgive us and welcome us back?*” **Law** I deny Jesus when I fail to acknowledge Him and live as if I do not know Him. **Gospel** Even when I deny Him, Jesus will never turn His back on me, never refuse me, and never stop loving me. Instead, He draws me back, forgives me, and treats me as if I had never denied Him.

Palm Sunday April 9

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

The Passion of Christ *Matthew 27:11-66*

The Sunday School lesson covers Matthew’s account of “The Passion of Christ” as He ventured to the cross for you and me. The Father, the perfect, righteous judge of the universe, forsook Jesus on the cross so that the perfect, righteous sacrifice, Jesus Christ, could be punished for the sins of the whole world. Discuss with your children, “*Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? What benefit do we gain from the death and resurrection of Jesus?*”

Law The wages of sin is death. **Gospel** Jesus Christ paid the price for the sin of the world by His suffering and death.

Easter Sunday April 16

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. . . . But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:17, 20

The Resurrection of Jesus *Matthew 28:1-10*

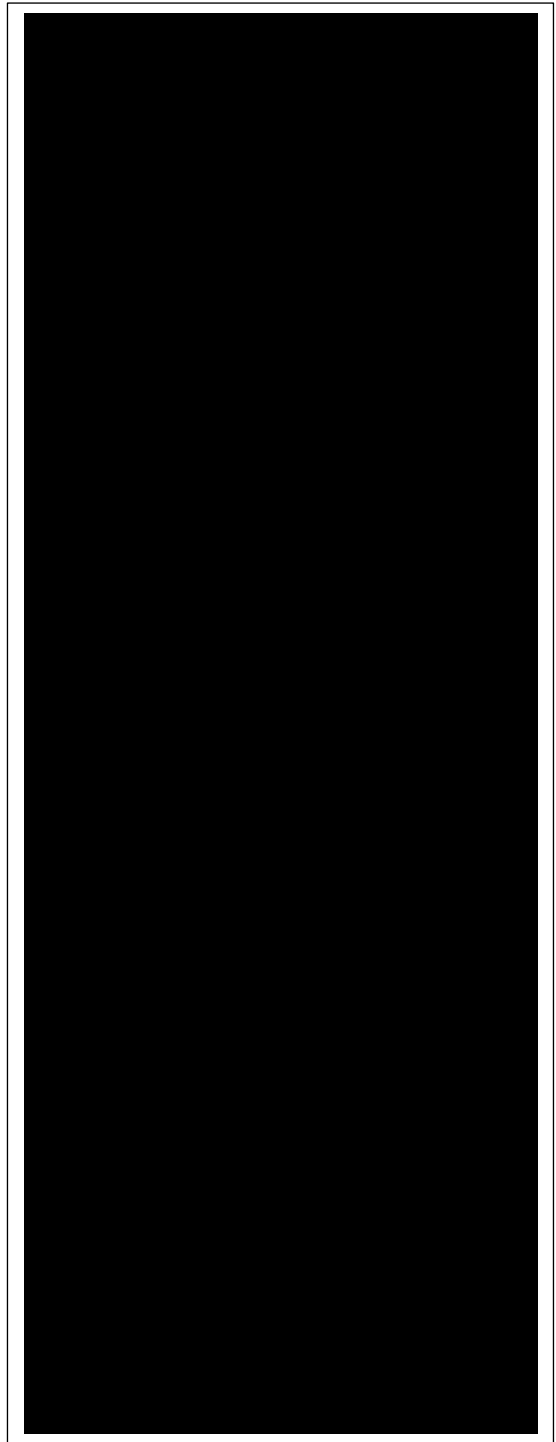
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Today in Sunday School, your children are joining in the celebration of “The Resurrection of Jesus” as they study Matthew’s account of Easter morning (Matthew 28:1–10). Consider asking, “*Why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus important? How is each Sunday a celebration of Easter?*” **Law** Because of sin, I deserve eternal death and separation from God, and I am filled with fear. **Gospel** The Father has accepted His Son’s sacrifice for sin, making me an heir of eternal life. He works through His Word to comfort me, replacing my fear with joy and empowering me to tell others about the Lord’s resurrection.

Easter 2 April 23

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. . . . But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:17, 20

The Empty Tomb *John 20:1-18*

On the first Easter, Mary Magdalene and His disciples discover “The Empty Tomb” (John 20:1–18). In Sunday School today, the children learned how Jesus comes to us in His Word, so that the Spirit gives us faith to believe in Christ’s resurrection and comforts us when we mourn the death of loved ones. You might discuss, “*How did Jesus’ followers react when they discovered the empty tomb? How can we share the message of the resurrection?*” **Law** Death is a consequence of sin and causes me sorrow. **Gospel** God comforts me with the promise of the resurrection to eternal life for all who believe in Christ.



Easter 3 April 30

[The two disciples] said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32

Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road Luke 24:13-35

Today in Sunday School, the children learned of how the disciples recognized the resurrected Jesus through the Scriptures and the breaking of bread when "Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road" (Luke 24:13-35). Talk with your children, "How does Christ come to and abide with us?" **Law** Sin blinds me to the truth and keeps me from recognizing and believing in Jesus as my Savior. **Gospel** Jesus open my eyes through God's Word and Sacraments so that I might believe and trust in Him.



Frederick the Wise

1463-1525

Frederick was born January 17, 1453, the first son of Elector Ernest of Saxony. The region of Saxony grew to prominence in the Holy Roman Empire through the great wealth of its silver mines. Educated as the successor to a dynasty, Frederick succeeded his father as Elector of Saxony in 1486. He was one of seven electoral princes who selected the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, the most powerful political alliance in Europe. Frederick's significance grew in 1500 when he was appointed President of the Imperial Council of the Holy Roman Empire. When Emperor Maximilian died in 1518, Frederick became acting Emperor over the Holy Roman Empire until a successor could be elected.

When Cardinal Cajetan delivered the Pope's citation for Luther to report to Rome to answer heresy charges, Frederick the Wise refused. He felt German subjects should be tried in Germany, so he prevailed upon Cajetan to interview Luther in Augsburg, Germany, instead of Rome.

Of Frederick, Luther wrote, "The Prince knew all about the crafty ways of the Roman curia; he knew exactly how to treat them. He was a man with a good clear nose, and he could smell more and farther than the Romanists could either hope or fear. Thereafter, they stopped testing Frederick. Furthermore, he paid no honor to the rose that they call 'golden,' which Leo X sent him that same year; on the contrary, he ridiculed it. Thus the Romanists were forced to give up any hope of duping such a Prince."

Without the protection of Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, the Reformation might not have succeeded. That being said, however, it's quite possible Frederick never met Martin Luther face-to-face. So how did he come to be Luther's Protector? We have the next member of the Reformation Twelve to thank for that: George Spalatin.

Call Day 2017

Concordia Theological Seminary

Ft. Wayne, IN

April 25, 2017

Concordia Seminary

St. Louis, MO

April 26, 2017

Seminarian Peter Adelson, whom Redeemer has supported financially, is a candidate for a call at the St. Louis Seminary. Please keep Seminarian Adelson, his wife Melissa, and all eligible call candidates, in your prayers.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

For the holy ministry

O almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, gave to His holy apostles many excellent gifts and commanded them earnestly to feed His flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and the people obedient to follow it that together they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Sunday Morning Fellowship Sign-up

May 2017 – August 2017

If you would like the opportunity to choose your date to serve refreshments following Divine Service on Sunday, you can sign up in the library or contact the church office with your preferred date either by phone (615) 646-3150 or email (rlcnashville@bellsouth.net). All member households are encouraged to participate. If you are unable to participate, please speak with one of our lay elders (Ron Suedekum, Don Jones, Fred Guengerich). All open dates will be assigned. The deadline to sign up is April 23rd.

Need a Christmas Tree?

Yes, that's certainly an odd question to ask at the beginning of the Lenten Season. However, Redeemer replaced the Christmas tree we used in the nave for **many years and it's in need of a new home.** This tree is still serviceable for a home, school, or some other location where it will be used appropriately as a marker for the remembrance of the Incarnation of Our Lord!

If you've got any interest in taking this tree, for your use or another's use, please contact Lynn Suedekum of the Board of Properties.



April 1st

9 AM

The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalm 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



Blessings on Your Lenten Journey

Today, the Church catholic, throughout the world, pauses to make its beginning of our annual Lenten journey. Lent is a special time. It gets us back to the basics of Christ crucified (I Corinthians 1:22-24). It also gets us back to the fact that this Christ wants now to reconcile us to the Father (II Corinthians 5:20). This is all done through the mystery of Christ becoming one with our sins so that we might be made one with His righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21). These are the foci of Lent; these are the foci of the Christian faith. Lent is a time that is centered in the basics, just where we all need to be!

An ancient custom during this season, not at all required, is for Christians to give up a favorite thing – chocolate, beer, T.V. An increasing trend is to “pick up something;” that is, to add some act of devotion (e.g., prayer) or some form of charity (e.g., volunteering) to one’s daily life. Though this comes rather late, might I suggest some “picking up” that will aid our ministry in Ghana.

We need prayers from you desperately.

- Our LCMS team in Tamale and throughout Ghana is going through some transition (see the second page). We need you to pray that we who are left are encouraged in our work and given strength to do it. You can also pray for those who are relocating.
- Lazarus, our member who is a former Muslim, needs prayers as his family attempts to unleash dark forces against him in order to bring him back to Islam.
- Robert, our congregational chairman, is having a hard time with an abusive boss and is struggling to provide for his family.
- We need prayers for our health and to help us to find ways to minimize our risk of infections.
- Please, pray for our potential of using Mercy Medical Teams in one of our training sites; this is to draw people to Christ through the small congregation in that village.

We could use more donors to keep us in the field. Perhaps this is a good time to take the dollars you normally spend on something you have given up and set them aside for our Ghana mission. Your tax-deductible gift can be sent to our work at the address on the bottom of the second page. It even tells you how to make out your check!

As far as the Kaster family goes, we could use prayers for Joshua, our oldest, and Sarah, his wife, and Rachel, their newborn child, as they are seeking employment back in Florida or Georgia. We also need prayers for our harried daughter, Gretchen, and her fiancé, Tom, who are preparing to wed in November. And finally, our son, Jonathan, serving with the US Air Force in Guam. On top of that, we have mothers from whom we are separated. Ask God to keep us all in His grace and care.

A blessed Lenten journey to you all,
Pastor Dale and Suzanne Kaster



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our area director and his wife, Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte.
- Pray for our team here in West Africa. In Ghana: Rev/Mrs. David Erber, Rev/Mrs. Steven Schumacher, Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson, and Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermott
In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker, and Rev. Jacob Gaugert.
Transitioning to Sierra Leone: Rev. Mark and Susan Moss
In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte and Rev. Fred Reinhardt.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for what we believe is the right diagnosis.
- Ask God to give Dale the right medicines for his healing.
- Ask God to bless our Tamale congregation with a spirit of outreach.

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
TL 375
Tamale, Ghana
West Africa

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

West African Team in Motion!

Out of the six families that were stationed in Ghana, three of them will be moving. Two of them will be heading to Sierra Leone and one will be heading to Dapong, Togo, after some French language learning in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. While we feel it best to let the families do their own announcing, we can announce that the family that came to help us in Tamale, Rev. Mark and Susan Moss, will be among those going to Sierra Leone. We pray God to bless him in his church planting work and to help us as we move forward only with the help of the native pastor, Rev. John Konbat.

Giardia? Really?!

We are getting close to our return. The tropical/infectious disease doctor that Dale has been seeing diagnosed him with a case of giardia. This is a fairly common parasite in West Africa. Most of the time a course of Flagyl knocks it out and you are fine. But it just seems that it was a particularly pernicious case of it. What has finally worked for Dale is to take the anti-parasite medicine Alinia. Since then Dale's body is getting back to normal. We are hoping that next Wednesday we will get the all-clear and then we will be heading back to Africa.

We Give Thanks!

Our newest grandchild and our only granddaughter made her arrival on February 3. Her name is Rachel Louise. She was 7 lbs. 15 oz., and 20.5 inches long. We are flying tomorrow to see her in Denver, but, quite unexpectedly, they will be moving back to the NE Florida/SE Georgia area. Dale will get to baptize her on Sunday, March 12th. God keep her and her parents, Joshua and Sarah, in His grace and constant care!



Getting to Serve as Pastor

While we wait to return, Dale has been trying to serve where he can. One of his former member's daughter has been hospitalized, fairly seriously. (Her name is Amanda if you could add her to prayers.) She is in and out of surgeries as they struggle to heal her of some bad peritonitis. And there have been a number of old friends that have asked for his ear and his prayers, always given joyfully! Also, on Transfiguration Sunday, Dale got to fill in for our pastor here in Jacksonville. It was the first time in a long time that he was both preacher and celebrant. And tonight, on Ash Wednesday, he will serve as the liturgist for the Service of the Word. So even while here, there has been a lot of ministry to do.

Serve one another as our Lord has served you! And may the blessings of this Lent remain with you always.

We commend you and yours to Christ Jesus, our Lord,
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Ghana," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/kastersinghana - no FB membership needed!

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Door Offering Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Meeting (following Divine Service)	3 8 AA	4	5 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 6 Supper 7 Lenten Vespers 8 Choir	6	7 10 Making of Palm Crosses	1 9 Work Day 8
9 Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service	10 8 AA	11 7 LWML	12 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation	13 Holy Thursday 7 Divine Service - The Triduum	14 Good Friday 7 Chief Service - The Triduum	15 Holy Saturday 10 Children's Easter Party 7:30 Vigil of Easter - The Triduum
16 The Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter 8 Easter Breakfast 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service	17 8 AA	18 6:30 Council	19	20	21	22 7:30-3:30 Habitat for Humanity
23 Second Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service	24 8 AA	25 10 Ladies Home Improvement Group <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i>	26 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 7 Choir	27	28	29 8:30 Men's Breakfast
30 Third Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Voters' Assembly						

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