

THE SPIRE



April 2020
Volume 8, Issue 4

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Pastor's COLUMN

By Rev. Mark Eldal

The Gospel of John, in many ways, is organized around a series of miracles called “signs.” These “signs” seem to build to a crescendo as they begin with Jesus turning the water into wine and then progress through other “signs” leading ultimately to the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is this ultimate miracle, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that we celebrate on Easter, and it is this miracle that can enable our lives to build to a crescendo as we trust in Jesus.

For the same power that raised Jesus from the dead can raise us to new life every day in him. It can be the “abundant life” of which Jesus spoke. This abundant life is not necessarily free of troubles and struggles, but rather a life filled with meaning and peace whatever the circumstances might be in which we live, even the uncertain ones which we are currently experiencing.

As we live the abundant life, we can as Paul would write, be led in “triumphal procession” by Jesus. As we are led in this procession it can eventually bring us to the ultimate miracle, resurrection from the dead someday.

Thus, in many ways the resurrection of Jesus can enable our lives to build to a crescendo as Jesus gives us new life here and now, and then ultimately raises us to life everlasting in him.

May the resurrected Jesus lead us in triumphal procession in this life and through eternity, as we trust in him as our Savior and Lord.

God bless,

Pastor Mark

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April 2020 Special Days

Some of the special days
celebrated in April are:

- Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020
- Maundy Thursday – April 9, 2020
- Good Friday – April 10, 2020
- Easter – April 12, 2020
- Earth Day – April 22, 2020
- Admin. Professionals Day – April 22, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for Worship Services on Sundays posted at 9:00 am on Facebook, our church website (firstlutheran-oakland.com) and YouTube. We will have Easter Morning Services Sunday, April 12th at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Easter to my Sunday school children and parents! The Sunday school teachers miss all of your faces, but as you know it is safer to be at home.

The coronavirus presents many challenges, but every obstacle is an opportunity. We have the privilege as parents to take this opportunity to guide our children towards the word of God.

Below are a few ideas for you:

1. Encourage kids to be “on mission” by writing cards of encouragement to first responders, pastors, schoolteachers, or nursing home residents. Have them call or FaceTime their grandparents and read a Bible verse or Bible story to them.
2. Post challenges for families such as taking a walk and talking about the beauty of the world God created. Do a scavenger hunt where kids find things specific things around the house that helps them tell the Bible story.
3. Explain that a virus or pandemic is wide-spread, but it doesn’t mean everyone will get sick. We can reassure our children that their health and safety are our most important priority, and that we will do everything to protect them.

But don’t stop there. Be a disciple maker. Besides reassurances, this is the time to share our God stories of how our faith grew strong in a difficult time. Children grow in the soil of our faith. Exposure to real hope and faith from a real person’s life nurtures real faith. Be open. Be real. Be there. Be full of faith. This is child discipleship.

4. Use your child’s hand and assign each finger a word. I. Am. Always. With. You. “When you are afraid, (insert your child’s name) remember this prayer and that God is always with you.”

5. Google Bible verses for your children and the coronavirus for comfort. One that stood out to me was:

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged

I believe if there’s anything that we can do right now for our children is to bring God into our home on a daily basis to teach them that God is first and with that JOY comes into our life!

J- Jesus
O- Others
Y- Yourself

Have a happy Easter! Look for a goodie bag to come from Your Sunday school teachers on Friday or Saturday before Easter!

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmands will continue to meet via ZOOM on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday via Zoom or another app.. please contact one of leaders to get more information. Janelle Seagren, Kylie Penke, Deb Bonsall or Stef Weitzenkamp.



**Joan Magnusson
Laurie Schold
Tom Wallerstedt**



SEWING MEETINGS - cancelled until further notice

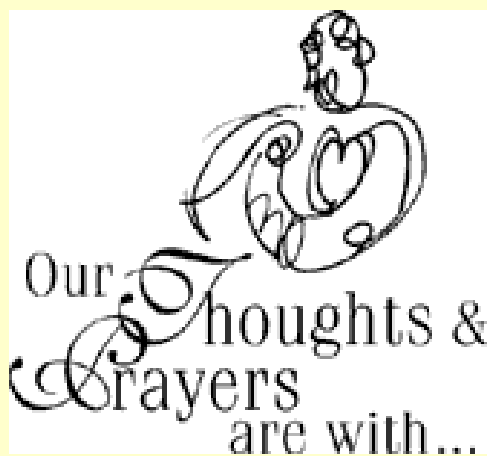


Cancelled until further notice. Please contact your Leader/Coordinator if you have any questions.



Dorcas Society - - cancelled until further notice

We will still be praying for one another and please let us know if you would like someone added to our prayers. We have therefore included our prayer list so you can pray for the individuals on it.



IN OUR PRAYERS OF CONCERN PLEASE INCLUDE:

Carl Easton, Mattie Aubert (Arlene Carper's great-granddaughter), Denise Enstrom, Marian Moseman, Bill Dix, Jody Faith, Judy Nelson, Ed Anderson, Clara Frahm, Tammy Case, Pat Moseman, Joan Meade (Hilda Benne's sister-in-law), Krissa Schonert, Deloris Nielsen, Tony Kochel, Stacy Long, Lincoln Nobel Hangman, Andy Kruse, Landon Johnson, the families of Marlene Lindstrom and Lee Schinck, our service men and women, and all those deployed to foreign countries, our shut-ins, and our youth ministry.



CHURCH COUNCIL

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Oakland, Nebraska

The church council met March 9, 2020 at 7:04pm. Members in attendance were Pastor Eldal, Nathan Anderson, Sam Schmidt, Mike Blanc, Clendon Rost, Susan Mulder, Brad Bousquet, Keri Thomsen, Kathy Pearson and Jack Carstensen.

Devotions were given by Clendon Rost. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer’s report was reviewed and discussed. Year to date income exceeded expenses by \$2,528.90. There were no corrections or additions and approved as stated.

Pastor presented his report for the months of January and February.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

1. Safe: Installation is pending.
2. Sound System: Council discussed realigning speakers to original settings and working with sound settings.
3. Historical Committee: Chairperson was accepted by Susan Mulder.

New Business:

1. Coffee time supervisor: The council discussed finding a Coffee Time Supervisor to assist families who are providing Sunday Morning coffee. The council is looking for volunteers to fill this roll.

Apr Communion Assistant: Maundy Thursday, Susan Mulder
 Palm Sunday, Mike Blanc

Apr Meeting Devotion: Brad Bousquet

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting: 5 April 2020 at 7:00pm

Mike Blanc, Secretary



March Finances	
Regular	\$15,917.00
Lenten.....	\$ 322.00
Designated	
Coffee Fund.....	\$ 92.00
Sunday School.....	\$ 9.00
Memorial.....	\$2,275.00
Wed. Nite Youth.....	\$ 5.00
Pay It Forward.....	\$ 140.00
Misc.....	\$ 218.00
Total.....	\$ 18,978.00

April's Birthdays



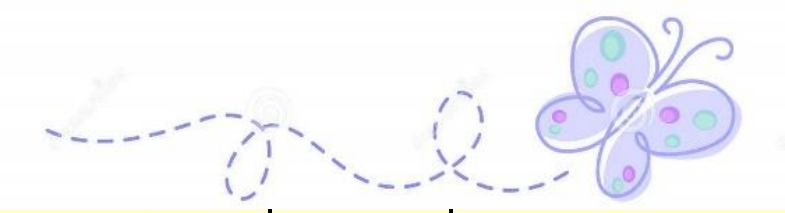
- 1 - Joe Anderson, Katie Miller
- 2 - Mark Johnson, Jamison Johnson, Peter Kruse
- 3 - Mark Eldal, Sandy Husar, Janice Johnson,
Marian Moseman, Clara Bittner
- 4 - Elaine Peterson, Janelle Guill-Mueller, Faye Lindstrom
- 6 - Zachary Denton, Dona Nelson, Anden Schold, Sierra Kloth
- 8 - Austin Jorgensen
- 9 - Johnnie Johnson, Nolan Magnusson
- 10 - Tara Miller, Taryn Kloth
- 11 - Brad Heineman
- 12 - Carson Thomsen, Merle Karstens, Bonnie Larson,
Marty Nelson, Clay Olson, Ivy Johnson
- 13 - Kara Peterson, Johnna Peterson
- 17 - Benson Bland, Braeden Case, Roger Moderow, Jean Satree
- 18 - Mike Selk, Ann Anderson, Jacob Dixon, Margot Johnson
- 19 - Jennifer Ahrens
- 20 - Jane Moseman, Sabrina Rost
- 21 - Brad Bousquet, Roberta Sieck, Wayne Uman, Nathan Anderson
- 22 - Brian Magnusson, Deanna Ray
- 23 - Cole Christofferson
- 24 - Ashley Denton
- 27 - Judee Dix, Nathan Johnson, Nancy Johnson
- 28 - Nathan Larson
- 29 - Myrna Swanson
- 30- Vivian Forks



- 1 - Dan & Mona Tanksley
- 10 - Tim & Annie Magnusson
- 12 - Kevin & Julie Wuestewald
Brad & Lela Heineman
- 15 - Stewart & Jennie Harbin
- 23 - Bob & Jerri Case
- 25 - Richard & Mary Strom
- P.D & Georgia Stibor
- 27 - Mike & Cynthia Johnson



APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					 NO WORSHIP SERVICES PASTOR MARK'S BIRTHDAY	
5 9:00AM PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION ONLINE SERVICE	6	7	8	9	10	11 NO WORSHIP SERVICES
12 9:00 AM EASTER ONLINE SERVICE EASTER	13 	14	15	16	17	18 NO WORSHIP SERVICES
19 9:00AM ONLINE SERVICE	20 EARTH DAY	21	22	23	24	25 NO WORSHIP SERVICES
26 9:00AM ONLINE SERVICE	27	28	29	30		

Below are listed the Church Duties as previously published. However, with the turn of events in our world those duties have changed. If it would work for you, could you please, record a short video clip welcoming people viewing our service and text/email them to Tess Johnson in the office. (402-380-5660 or tdblj23@yahoo.com). If this does not work for you, please contact Tess and let her know and she will find a replacement for you. Also, if you have any hymn requests, or would like to be a reader please feel free to pass that along as well. Thanks, and have a blessed month!!

APRIL 2020 CHURCH DUTIES

Sunday, April 12 - Greetings- Tony, Casey, Colton and Marysa Moseman

Easter Sunday Greetings - Bob and Jane Moseman

Greetings - Tim and Sherri Slatt

Reader - Ian Lundquist

Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Sunday, April 19- Greetings- Jim and Tammy VonEssen

Greetings- Dexter and Ashten VonEssen

Reader - Mona Tanksley

Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Sunday, April 26 - Greetings-Cal and Sara Anderson

Greetings- Nate, Jen, Noah and Ivy Anderson

Reader - Patty Miller

Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Sunday, May 3, Greetings- Joe, Wendi and Braylon Anderson

Greetings- Theo, Jess, Brooks and Benson Bland

Reader -

Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Sunday, May 10, Greetings- Mike and Karen Blanc

Greetings- George, Becca, Daniel, Sonja and Samuel Bedrinecek

Reader -

Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Sunday, May 17, Greetings- Brad, Alissa, Emmy, Megan, Carter and Caleb Bousquet

Greetings- Austin, Nicole and Adley Parcel

Reader -

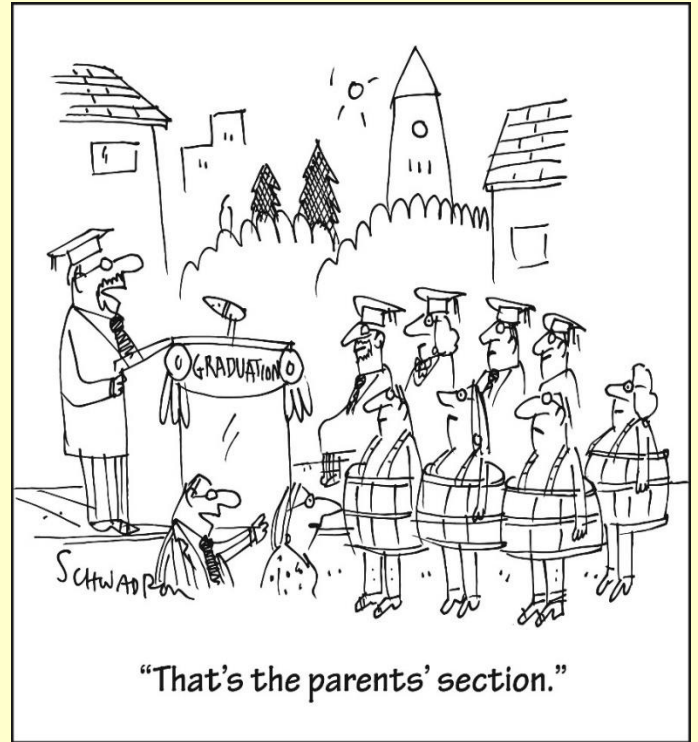
Sound & Media - Tess Johnson

Thank you for your help in these important areas!

If you can't be here, please find someone to take your place.



CHRISTIAN HUMOR TO TICKLE YOUR LIFE



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We are committed to providing
spiritual enrichment to ALL who
seek the Lord.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
Permit No. 11
Oakland, NE
68045

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.firstlutheran-oakland.com



Join us:
Easter Sunday Service @ 9:00 AM via
Youtube; and www.firstlutheran-oakland.com
on the Media tab and choose
Sermons and our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-357553074285035/?ref=bookmarks>.

