



Monthly Monitor

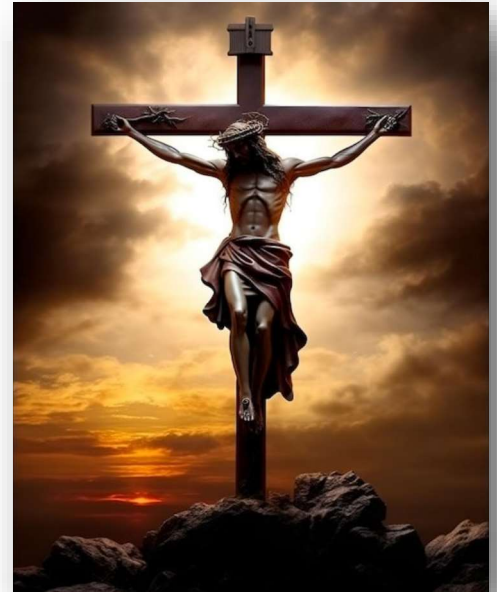
April 2025

Fool-Proof Faith

This year, as it does most of the time, Easter falls in April. April is a month associated with rain and taxes and changing of the weather. Sometimes farmers begin their work in the fields by the end of April. April also begins with April Fool's Day, a day for practical jokes and office pranks.

The origin of April fools comes from the 1500's when the calendar changed and the New Year was moved to January 1st. Previously, it had been April 1st. Those who continued to celebrate the New Year in April were labeled, "April Fools".

There are, in our day and age, many sceptics and unbelievers who would like to link the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ with April Fools. You might even hear some say, "Look at all those goofy Christians waking up before sunrise on Easter to get all dressed up and go celebrate with their equally foolish friends the ongoing perpetuation of a myth. What a bunch of fools! A man tortured, beaten and hung on a cross until he died was a common occurrence in the Roman empire 2000 years ago. But saying that this man somehow came back to life after three days... come on, Christians... Don't be ridiculous! And then pretending that this guy Jesus is *still* alive and is worth following, like some kind of leader?!?! April Fools and Easter *should* go hand in hand. Let's get real!"



Here's the thing, this *is* real. *Very* real. Scripture and other historical documents record the life and death of a man named Jesus from the town of Nazareth nearly 2000 years ago. He was put on trial and crucified in Jerusalem. These all are historical facts. Where sceptics and unbelievers diverge from Christians is in *who* they think this Jesus was.

Most historians would agree that Jesus was a man of peace that taught much about life and how we should treat each other; and these things should be commended.

What they (sceptics and unbelievers) would say is foolish and a bridge too far, is believing that Jesus is the Son of God, God Himself, who entered this world to save us from our sin. And to say that this Jesus also managed to come back to life after dying is also just as foolish.

But, what if it *is* true? What if Jesus actually had the power to conquer death and come back to life? What if I were to tell you that the most scrutinized and historically accurate document from that time - the Bible - not only claims that Jesus rose from the dead, but also tells us that Jesus was seen alive by *hundreds* of people after his documented death? If Jesus resurrection was a myth or a made-up story, then what in the world would motivate so many of his earliest followers to be killed rather than deny the myth? Of the 12 original

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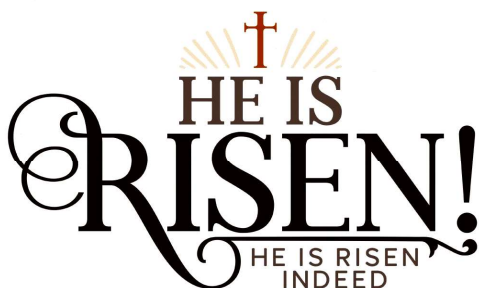


disciples, the men who followed Jesus personally while he was here on earth, only one would die of natural causes. Judas, who betrayed Jesus, would hang himself; John would die of old age; and the rest were martyred. They all died so that the fairytale/myth could live on??? Come on! Now who is being foolish! What is interesting is that the Bible itself talks about this very topic. **1 Corinthians 1:18** says "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

You see, *if* Jesus *did* conquer death and come back to life, then it changes everything. It means that we *have to* take his claims about who he is and why he was here on earth seriously. In Jesus' resurrection, we see the power of God to conquer sin, death and the devil. We see the power of God to offer us forgiveness, life and salvation. We see the power of God to open the gates of eternal life to all who would place their trust in Jesus. We see the selfless love of God to give himself over to death that we might live forever. If the resurrection is true, then it means that, by faith, we too shall rise from the dead to live forever in paradise.

While it is true that there will always be some who call the resurrection foolish, no matter the date it is celebrated, for those of us who believe, it will always be the proof that God loves us and has done everything necessary to secure for us eternal life.

Happy Easter!
-Pastor Kaiser



HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY

On the Sunday before His death, Jesus sent two disciples ahead, having them find and bring a donkey and its unbroken colt back to Him. Jesus sat on the young donkey and made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed Him by waving palm branches in the air.

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" -Matthew 21:9



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jesus shared the feast of the Passover with His disciples. The Last Supper established Communion, sharing in the elements of bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice. Later, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed in agony to God the Father. It was in the garden that Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas and arrested.

I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." -Matthew 26:29



GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus was wrongly sentenced to death by crucifixion. Soldiers pierced Him with a crown of thorns. Jesus then carried His own cross to Calvary where He was mocked and insulted as He was nailed to the wooden cross. After many hours, Jesus breathed His last breath and died. By dying on the cross, Jesus paid for the sins of all mankind.

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last breath and died. By dying on the cross, Jesus paid for the sins of all mankind. -Luke 23:46



EASTER

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of the Christian faith. Early Sunday morning, several women went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced Jesus' resurrection. Jesus Christ made at least five appearances as recorded in the gospels.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. -Matthew 28:5-6



Having the Right Priorities

What are your top priorities in life? To whom or to what do you give the most time and attention? Jesus said, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21). Where we prioritize our time and money will reveal our most important priorities and the condition of our hearts.

By God’s grace, we see that the priorities the world promotes contrast with God’s priorities. The world’s focus is on self-promotion, power, and the accumulation of an abundance of possessions. Success is of utmost importance. The world tells people that happiness and security are found only in having more stuff. The acquisition of things demands a person’s time, attention, and money to obtain and maintain.

God’s Word does not condemn material wealth, but it does provide a warning that the riches of this world will not provide long-lasting peace, contentment, security, joy, or hope. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus said, *“For what good does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”* (9:25).

Scripture provides numerous examples of people who had the wrong priorities. An example of having wrong priorities with time is the story of Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:40, we read, *“But Martha was distracted with much serving.”* Mary and Martha were hosting Jesus. Martha became so preoccupied with preparing food and serving that she was

distracted from the opportunity simply to sit and listen to Jesus’ teaching. Mary *“chose the good portion”*; she sat at Jesus’ feet to learn from Him. This highlights the importance of prioritizing spiritual growth and connection over mere physical acts of serving.



An example of having a wrong priority with money is the parable of the Rich Fool. The Rich Fool wanted to build bigger barns to store his crops. His goal was to *“eat, drink, be merry”* (Luke 12:19). Jesus called him a fool because he gave no credit to God for his success, nor did he show any interest for the welfare of others. He lived only for himself. In this parable, Jesus said, *“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15).

Jesus directs us to *“...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33). We are called to prioritize God’s will and purpose above everything else. With the faith that God gives us, we are enabled to distance ourselves from the attitude of the world that glorifies the earthly life and its possessions, and we can trust that God will provide for our needs.



Remembering Good Friday

Easter is right around the corner, but, without Good Friday, there would be no Easter. Look, then, on the Suffering Servant. Hear again the story of His Passion. Think anew of the ridicule and physical torment He endured even before His walk to Golgotha. Ponder His last words from the cross on which He hung in agony: *“It is finished, and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit”* (John 19:30). Focusing on this event in history reminds us again of the great cost Jesus paid for our salvation and leads us to worship and praise Him with all we are and have.



Trinity Lutheran School The Classroom Chronicles



April-2025

As we enter the month of April, we are reminded of the power of resurrection and the abundant hope that we have in Christ. The season of Easter is upon us, and with it comes a profound opportunity to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, His victory over death, and the new life we receive through His resurrection.

This April, we invite you to join us in celebrating the miracle of Christ's triumph over the grave. Let us come together to praise His name and renew our commitment to follow Him with hearts full of gratitude and faith. Our Easter services and events will be a time of deep reflection, joyous celebration, and fellowship, as we walk together in the light of His love.

March was an extremely busy month at school. We celebrated READING with fun activities and dress up days. I think our favorite event was our first ever Literacy Fair & Open House. Our students and teachers are amazingly creative and had so many great displays, projects and puzzles to share with everyone. A quieter April will allow us to look prepare our hearts for Easter services. We are also looking forward to Spring Break at the beginning of the month, an extended Easter weekend and the 7th & 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. at the end of the month.

I encourage each of you to reflect on the words of the Apostle Paul, who reminds us in 1 Peter 1:3 that, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Let this living hope guide our steps, our relationships, and our service to others in the days ahead.

Thank you for your continued love, support, and prayers for our church family. As we move through this season of renewal, may we continue to be instruments of God's peace, sharing His hope and light with the world around us.

With gratitude and blessings,
Mrs. Karen Friebe,
Principal



ENDURANCE

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. —Hebrews 10:36



Announcements



Would you like to support The GATE by providing lunch?

Our high school students meet twice a month to study God's Word and enjoy fun and fellowship together. We always provide lunch to make it easier for students to stay after church for our meetings. While the youth parents or leaders often provide the meal, we want to invite congregation members to consider supporting our new high school youth program by providing lunch for the group. If

you would like to provide lunch for one of our meetings, please contact Kate Kaiser (712-242-8072) or sign up online:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20F054BA9AC2DA1FC1-53104509-lunch>



SAVE THE DATE!

The GATE will be hosting a Family Bingo Night on May 16th from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be collecting donations of new/unused items for prizes after Easter, but if you are spring-cleaning over spring break, please keep us in mind!

LUTHERAN HOME CEMETERY

All Christmas wreaths, grave blankets, etc. need to be removed from the cemetery by April 1st. Anything left after this date will be disposed of. Contact: DAVE ARNOLD with any questions (989) 907-1142.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The 42nd Annual Athletic Booster Club Weekend is August 22-24. Keep watching for your opportunity to volunteer!

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The Annual Spring Clean-Up of the Grove is slated for Saturday, May 3 at 9:00am. We have several projects that we'd like to tackle, so bring your rakes and gloves and join the fun!

Open Enrollment
for PreK - 8th Grade
Are you looking for a quality Christian education for your child?
Enroll now for the 2025-2026 school year!
Contact the school office at (989)662-4891 for more information.

Lenten Worship Services

April 2 & 9
4:30 & 6:00pm

Lenten Dinners

April 2-Soup & Salad
April 9-Pasta Bar
5:00-6:00pm



Palm Sunday

April 13
8:30 & 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

w/Communion
April 17
6:00pm

Good Friday

April 18
6:00pm

Easter Worship

w/Communion
April 20
7:00 & 10:30am

Trinity Lutheran School is now offering
FREE PRESCHOOL for qualifying families
through the Bay Arenac Intermediate School District
If you live in **Bay** or **Arenac** Counties, your child may be eligible for **FREE** preschool programs!

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

Head Start & Great Start Readiness Programs

- High quality preschool
- Full day learning
- Services for children with special needs

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(989) 667-3209

www.BayArenacPreschool.com





FOOD DRIVE

The Stewardship Group of Trinity, along with the Auburn Area Food Bank, is once again hosting a food drive.

This spring, on Sunday, April 6, and Sunday, April 13, we will be collecting donations to support the Auburn Area Food Bank, which is in great need of the following items:

- Cereal
- Pancake mix
- Juice
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned fruit
- Canned kid-friendly foods such as SpaghettiOs and ravioli
- Egg noodles
- Spaghetti pasta
- Canned spaghetti sauce
- Tuna fish
- Brownie mix
- Crackers
- Soups
- Mac & cheese



Thank you for your generosity and support!

POSITION OPENINGS

Zion Lutheran School of Auburn is seeking a part-time teacher to teach 4th-grade ELA and math and work with the students in the intervention program. An ideal candidate has a Michigan teaching certificate, loves Jesus, loves kids, and enjoys collaborating with other teachers! Interested applicants can email a resume to Mrs. Susan Klauer at sklauer@zionauburn.com. Any questions can also be directed to Mrs. Susan Klauer. Thank you!

St. Paul Lutheran School, Bay City (Frankenlust), is seeking names of candidates for a Kindergarten/Young 5's teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Highly qualified candidates should have a current Michigan Teaching Certificate, a Lutheran Teacher Diploma or be willing to obtain one. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Principal Valerie Matyas at valerie.matyas@stpaulbaycity.org by Tuesday, April 22, 2025."

It's not too late to apply to Valley Lutheran for next school year!

Begin your student's application at www.vlhs.com/apply.

Interested to learn more about the VL experience, or want to schedule a tour? Contact Amy or Beth at 989-790-1676 or admissions@vlhs.com.

Valley Lutheran is seeking applications for the following positions:

- *Public Relations Intern* - ideal for a local college Junior or Senior with interest in communications, marketing, graphic design, and/or public relations
- *Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach*
- *Head Girls Varsity PomPon Coach*
- *Foreign Language Teacher* - Spanish is preferred but other language options will be considered

For more information about these positions or for directions for applying, go to www.vlhs.com/jobs.

The *Saginaw Valley Antique Society* will host their Spring Antique Show at Valley Lutheran on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am to 4 pm. \$5 admission provides access to 40+ vendors and 2 free verbal appraisals (available between 10 am - 2 pm). A bake sale and lunch will be available, sponsored by VLHS.