EASTER SUNDAY
April 1, 2018
St. John Ev. Lutheran Church - Alma City, MN
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church - Smiths Mill, MN

Opening Hymn: # 157 - Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Opening Verses:
P: Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
P: See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
C: Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.
P: Jesus has promised that because he lives, I shall live also.
C: Because Jesus lives, I, too, shall live forever!
P: For whom were the women looking among the dead?
C: They were looking for Jesus, the Messiah of God.
P: He is not there, he has risen from death.
C: He has kept his promise and swallowed up death in victory.
P: Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him forever!
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! Jesus is alive!

Sunday School – The Angel Rolled The Stone Away (Trinity)
Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (St. John’s)

The Good News Of Jesus Christ
P: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
C: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
P: “Do not be afraid,” says the Lord Jesus. “I am the First and the Last, the Living One.”
C: “I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”
P: Abraham was fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Our Easter Assurance
P: But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?
C: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.
P: And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.
C: More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead.

P: But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

C: For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

P: And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

C: Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

P: If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

C: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Hallelujah!

Hymn: # 154 vv 1-3 – Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Sermon: Matthew 28:6 – The Tomb is Empty, Our Hearts are Full

Offering

Easter Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Choir – Tell The News: Victory! (St. John’s)

Hymn: # 162 – He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

The Easter Thanksgiving:

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Our God keeps his promises.

C: He leads us forth with shouts of thanksgiving!

P: Let us praise the Lord for his goodness.

C: Praise the Lord, who raised Jesus from the dead!

   Praise the Lord, who took back his life from the grave!
   Praise the Lord, who through the eternal Spirit, lives forever as our resurrected King!

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn: # 341 vv 1,3 – Crown Him With Many Crowns
You are all invited to St. John’s Easter breakfast following the service. The Ladies’ Aid has designated your donations for a custom-made storage closet built by Rick Krautbauer. Thank-you to everyone who provided and served the breakfasts at both churches today.

We thank all who edified our services with music: both Sunday Schools, both choirs, our guitarists - Joel Berg and Pastor Bilitz, and our organists - David Bilitz and LeAnn Marzinske.

It pleased our almighty Lord to call to himself our brother, Glenn Koplen (91), this past week. He will be given a Christian funeral at St. John’s on Tuesday at 11 am. Visitation will be 4-7 pm on Monday at Starkson & Steffel Funeral Home - Arnoldt Chapel of Janesville and for one hour at church before the service on Tuesday. May those who mourn his death find comfort and hope in our risen Savior who is the Resurrection and the Life.

We warmly welcome into our church families: Karyn Block at Trinity and Tom Schull and his daughter Chelsea at St. John’s. We wish them the Lord’s blessings!

Holy Communion will be offered in our services next Sunday.

St. John’s will have a monetary door offering for the MLC Ladies’ Auxiliary the next two Sundays.

April calendars and Forward in Christ magazines are available in the entryway.

St. John’s quarterly meeting will be moved to April 22 after the service. The open forum will be on April 15.

If you haven’t had your picture taken for Trinity’s directory, you can submit one of your own to Pastor Bilitz.

We are inviting anyone interested in working at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center, North Mankato, MN to stop in or call 507 508 2041 or email lingjlm@hickorytech.net. Wages are competitive, working with kids is awesome and hours can be flexible.

The Seminary Chorus of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will present sacred concerts at Martin Luther College at 7:30 pm this Saturday, and at St. Paul Lutheran Church, North Mankato, at 10:30 am next Sunday, April 8th. The 43-voice choir will present hymns and anthems, accompanied by musical instruments and will include congregational participation.

The Summit Avenue Chamber Music Series presents solo pianist, Ralph Votapek next Sunday, April 8, 3 pm, at Martin Luther College. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce, online: summitavenuemusic.com or at the door. $13/adults: $5/ students.

Jonah Backus and the Conquerors, a music group made up of MLC Students, is giving a free concert next Sunday, April 8 at 6 pm in the St. Paul's Church Fellowship Hall in N. Mankato. They play upbeat, Christ-centered music. All are welcome. You can check them out on youtube.

The Martin Luther College Wind Symphony presents An Affirmation of Life, its pre-tour concert season finale, on Saturday, April 14, at 7:30 pm in the Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium. The program includes several works dealing with life transitions and death. Please join us!

Pastor and Carol would like to wish you all a very Blessed Easter!