



1402 East Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-2236 Fax: 701-223-0485
After Hours Emergency Line: 701-595-0223

www.faithbismarck.com

News and Views

April 2021

Volume 2021, Issue 4

MISSION STATEMENT

*"We are building a welcoming, nurturing
faith community that is guided
by Jesus and shares the Gospel."*

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, March 28

In-person at 8:30 and 11am, online at 8:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 1

In-person and online at 7pm

Good Friday, April 2

In-person 12pm and 7pm
Online at 7pm



*Masks are required for in-person worship

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CLERGY

Pastor Derek Harkins

(Fridays off)

Pastor Sylvia Bull

(Fridays off)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY: 8:30 & 11 AM

Online and Indoor

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

Online and Indoor

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM - NOON

Pastoral Care

Emergency Number

701-595-0223

*Answering machine is
available evenings and
weekends when the
office is not staffed.*

*Office is generally open
during the lunch hour.*



ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4
SERVICES AT
6:30, 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM**

*Please let us know you're coming by visiting
faithbismarck.com or calling the church office: 701-223-2236*

FLC Executive Team

Jennifer Prince, Chair

Noelyn Meckle, Vice-Chair

Amy Groce, Vice-Chair

Steve Sundvor, Secretary

Matthew Nygard, Treasurer

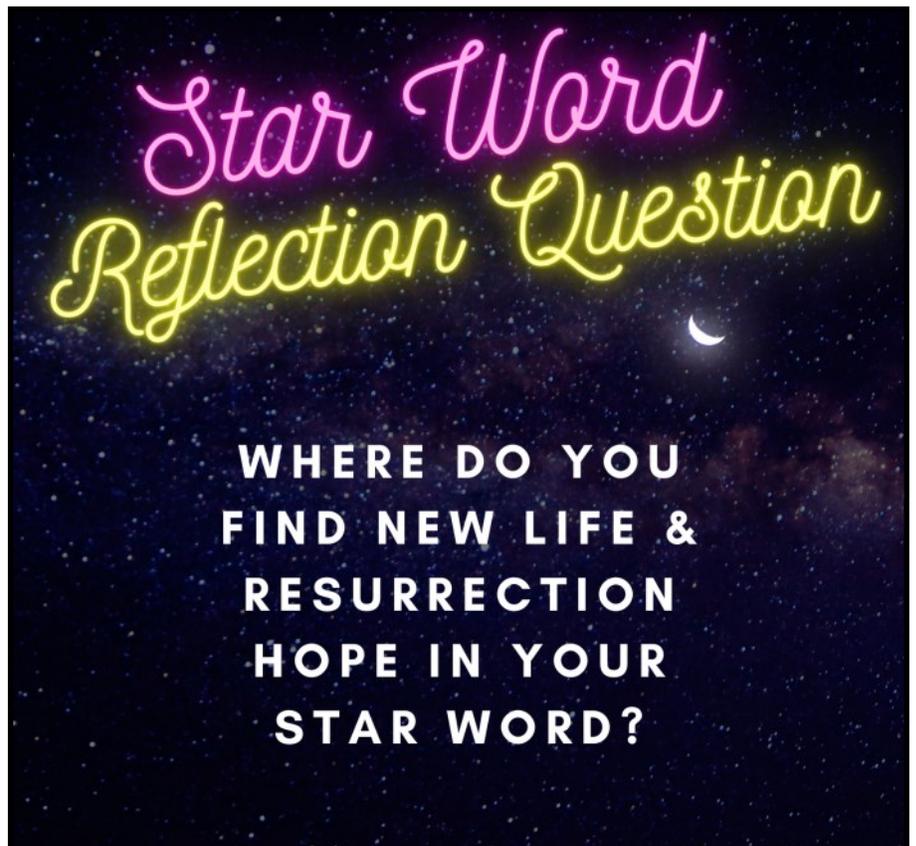
Pastoral Ministries

Baptisms:

Charley Joan Royce St. Croix
Chanller Sue St. Crouix

Funerals:

Harold Loritz
Allen Wanner



The deadline to submit information to the News and Views newsletter is the 10th of each month prior to the next newsletter. The Church bulletin deadline each week is at noon on Tuesday for the coming Sunday bulletin.

Articles, schedules, etc., can be sent by email to donna.bisfaith@gmail.com. For additional information, call the church office at 701-223-2236.



Pastor Sylvia's Parables

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.*

*In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

- Evangelical Lutheran Worship #389, text by Brian A. Wren

What are your heartsongs - the songs of faith that speak to you most deeply? "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" is one of mine, and has been for a long time. I have vivid memories of singing it in Eastertide from the front pew of my home church in Great Falls, MT. The line that has always captured my spirit and imagination is from the second stanza: *Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine...* That line transports me back to the time of Jesus, to the particular place and time in which he lived, died, and was raised. But it also reminds me that Christ is alive here and now. Easter doesn't celebrate a past event only but also a current reality. Jesus is alive now - saving now - healing now.

I learned today that the hymn writer, Brian Wren, wrote the first version of this hymn in April 1968 for Easter after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The world was grim and full of pain, and Wren wanted to "express an Easter hope out of that terrible event," not an Easter that was "long ago, far away, and high above." His Easter hymn honors the reality of our lives, and yet boldly proclaims that the risen Christ suffers with all those who suffer in any place where there is division and despair, bringing love, healing, and hope.

I hear this heartsong, my favorite Easter hymn, in a new way this year, as it reminds me that Christ IS alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age. Christ brings good news to this age of pandemic and struggle, to this Easter in which we are still living under the shadow of coronavirus and economic recession and the pain of months of isolation, loneliness, and many griefs, some almost too heavy to bear.

This good news - that Christ IS alive; that love, even when drowned in death, can never die - this good news is for *us today*, in *our age*, in *our time*. No matter what is happening in the world, even in the midst of insult, rift, and war. Each of us can feel the Spirit and hear the call. And the good news will keep on coming again and again and again until all creation rings with the joy, justice, love, and praise.

This Easter, may you remember that Christ is alive now, today, for you and for this present age, and may this good news be poured out in your life each and every day.

In Christ,
Pastor Sylvia





A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP CRAIG

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (Mark 16:7-8)

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the Western North Dakota synod, grace and peace to you from our risen Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

A few days before Easter Sunday 2020, I found myself on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River at the Double Ditch Indian Village State Historical Site. It was shortly before sunrise, a time of day that I am rarely awake to see. I was recording a sermon that would be part of Good Shepherd’s Easter Sunday worship service. An Easter Sunday worship service offered to an online worshipping community that formed in just a few short weeks as a global pandemic took hold of every part of life. A global pandemic that most of us believed would only last for a few more weeks and then everything would return to “normal.”

As we worship together – online and in-person – on Easter Sunday this year, have things returned to “normal” yet? Maybe. Maybe not. Or maybe the better question to ask is, should they?

The Easter story from Mark’s gospel that we hear this year speaks of fear, terror and amazement. Those are words that evoke emotions only found in an ancient Biblical story. They speak truth to each one of us. And there was far more than just one moment of terror and amazement in the past year. Social and

political unrest in our nation and in nations around the world pitted neighbor against neighbor. Angry debates unfolded over how or if we should care for one another during the pandemic. It divided many of our congregations in ways they had never seen before and in ways that they may never fully recover from.

Like the women at the tomb, fear, terror, and amazement consumed us in 2020.

The young man dressed in a white robe who met Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome at the tomb said to them, “Do not be alarmed.” The man goes on to tell them that Jesus has risen from the dead just as he said he would and that the risen Christ was going ahead of them. They didn’t need to waste time longing for the “normal” they had known before Jesus’ resurrection to return or angrily protest who they thought God loved more or argue about any variety of things that would divide their communities to the point of destroying them.

They were to confidently and joyfully go. They would meet Jesus there.

Life as they knew it would never return to the normal of before. And wherever their journey took them next, they would never journey alone. Maybe this is what Easter Sunday is calling us to do in 2021? To confidently and joyfully go, knowing that wherever we go, God is with us.

As she reflected upon her life of the past year, one ELCA pastor said, “I am so afraid that I will never be who I once was. And I am also afraid that I will be.”

My Easter message over the Missouri River bluffs last year offered a challenge us to be “hope carriers.” The image of being hope carriers still resonates with

Continued on next page.

me this year. You and I will never be who we were before 2020 began. And because of the resurrection, we do not have to be afraid of that truth.

Happy Easter!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Keith Pearson is our synod's Regional Gift Planner through a partnership with the ELCA Foundation. Keith can help provide management services to your congregation as well as help explore the variety of possibilities to help you arrange a planned gift. Contact Faith Simonieg for more information!



2021 Synod Assembly
June 4 & 5 at the
Grand Hotel in Minot



Library Link
LeAnn Severson

I just finished reading the final book to the Bjorklund family saga in Lauraine Snelling's Red River of the North (or often called the Blessing) series. Snelling admits that writing *A Blessing to Cherish* has been the hardest book she has ever written. She, like her readers, will miss Ingeborg, her family and the residents of Blessing. For those of you who have read the entire series, you will definitely want to read this well-written final chapter. New readers of the series will be able to read the entire collection without having to wait for the next edition to be released.

Your church library is open for browsing and checking out materials. Now that we are safely back in church, new items are being accessioned and available for your reading/watching pleasure.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund Revenues

February, \$38,376;
to date + \$82,416 +
PPP Loan Forgiveness \$70,600

General Fund Expenditures

February, \$43,246; to date \$103,485

CHURCH MEMORIALS

For **Endowment Fund**, in memory of:

Alice Voegele
Harold Loritz

For **Endowment Fund**, in honor of:

John & Jill Power

For **Altar Guild**, in memory of:

Emily Boschee

For **Music**, in memory of:

Alice Voegele

For **Capital Improvements and Endowment**, in memory of:

Justin McLean

For **Scholarships**, in memory of:

Rick Oberlander

For **Music**, in memory of:

Alice Voegele
Harold Loritz

For **General Fund**, in memory of:

Daniel Oster
Harry Oster

For **Bus Fund**, in memory of

Harold Loritz



Financial Literacy During a Pandemic

April is Financial Literacy Month, and it could not have come at a better time. I encourage you to take this opportunity to reflect on your personal finances and evaluate your financial health.

If you find that your financial health is not ideal, consider these steps to put your family on the right path.

- **Plan to Avoid Financial Stress**

- * Laying out a plan and setting financial objectives is the best way to stay in control of your money.

- **Establish a Savings Routine**

- * Saving for larger items can seem overwhelming, taking baby steps can really add up in the long run.

- **If your budget allows, there are compelling reasons to continue making monthly payments on your federal student loans.**

- * With the continued forbearance provided by the federal government, payments and interest accrual on most federal student loans are automatically paused, as well as collections activities on defaulted federal student loans. But this breathing room is only a temporary halt, not for givenness of the loans. Your debt will be waiting for you when repayment resumes in October unless the reprieve is extended again.

- * Making payments while your student loan is not accruing interest chips away at the principal. Your full payment will be applied to the principal amount of your loan after all interest that accrued before March 13, 2020 – plus any fees such as for defaulted loans – are paid. This means your balance may go down much faster with each payment which reduces the amount of interest paid over the term of the loan. Your payments will be applied directly toward the principal.

Feeling good about your financial health? Here is how to help others with your tax refund or stimulus check.

If you feel you are in a good financial spot and feel fortunate that you do not have to divide your financial stimulus check or income tax refund on groceries, insurance, rent, medicine, or gas; then I urge you, my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to be generous.

The ministries of your congregation, the ELCA and the Western North Dakota Synod could use your offerings in a variety of ways: to help neighbors who have fallen on tough times, to maintain outreach programs, support online worship, support building campaigns and necessary repairs. Be creative, be generous and encourage others to do likewise.

~ Faith Simonieg, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity

April 2021

*Call the Church office by NOON Friday for a ride to Church on Sunday (223-2236).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> 9:00 Esther Circle 9:00 Men of Faith 7:00 Worship Maundy Thursday	<u>2</u> Office closed 12:00 Worship 7:00 Worship 8:00 NA Good Friday	<u>3</u> 9:00 Altar Guild Holy Saturday
<u>4</u> 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 Worship/ No Church school Easter Sunday	<u>5</u> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 AA Easter Monday	<u>6</u> 7:00 Scouts	<u>7</u> 10:00 Bible Study - ZOOM 4:30 (B) 8th & 9th Confirmation 6:00 (A) Church School 6:00 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Worship	<u>8</u> 7:15 Ruth Circle	<u>9</u> 8:00 NA	<u>10</u> Newsletter deadline
<u>11</u> 8:30 Worship 9:45 (B) Church School 11:00 Worship	<u>12</u> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 AA	<u>13</u> 6:00 Elementary Comm 7:00 Scouts	<u>14</u> 10:00 Bible Study - ZOOM 4:30 (A) 8th & 9th Confirmation 6:00 (B) Church School 7:00 Worship 8:00 6th Grade P/S-ZOOM	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 8:00 NA	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> 8:30 Worship 9:45 (A) Church School 11:00 Worship 5:00 6th Grade P/S-ZOOM	<u>19</u> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 AA	<u>20</u> 7:00 Scouts	<u>21</u> 10:00 Bible Study - ZOOM 4:30 (C) 8th & 9th Confirmation 6:00 (A) Church School 6:00 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Worship	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 8:00 NA	<u>24</u> 9:30 Altar Guild
<u>25</u> 8:30 Worship 9:45 (B) Church School 11:00 Worship	<u>26</u> 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 AA	<u>27</u> 5:00 HR Comm 6:00 Compass Group 7:00 Executive Comm 7:00 Scouts	<u>28</u> 10:00 Bible Study - ZOOM 6:00 (B) Church School 7:00 Worship	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 8:00 NA	

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