



MONONA MESSENGER

APRIL 2020

+ HE ROSE AGAIN +

Matthew 28:1-10

A well-dressed gentleman was standing in front of the display window of an art store, looking at a painting of the Crucifixion. As He stood there, a little boy in dirty blue jeans and a tattered sweat shirt walked up and stood beside him—also intent on the painting.

Pointing to the picture, the man asked the boy: "Do you know who that is, hanging on the cross?" "Oh, yes, sir," came the quick response, "that's the Savior."

And as he spoke, the small boy's eyes showed surprise and pity at the ignorance of the unknown gentleman. Then, after a pause, with an evident desire to enlighten the man, he added: "Them's the soldiers, the Roman soldiers," and with a long sigh, "that lady crying there is His mother."

After another brief moment of silence he added: "They killed Him, mister. They **killed** Him."

Together they studied the painting in silence until finally the man tousled the boy's hair affectionately and walked away, disappearing into the crowd.

He had turned a corner and walked a half a block when suddenly he heard the shrill voice of the boy, who was making his way through the crowd: "Hey, mister! Mister!"

He turned and waited for the eager youngster to catch up with him. Almost out of breath, the boy panted his excited information: "I wanted to tell you, He rose again! He rose again!" **What a Message!**

Whether the little boy realized it or not, he would never again in all his life deliver a message of greater importance. No sputnik, no satellite, no landing on the moon, no interplanetary travel would ever provide a more important headline than the one his youthful lips had just formed: "Hey mister! He rose again!"

God's greatest message to each of us this Easter Season, indeed to everyone in every season, is the message of His Son, whether it be formed on the lips of an eager youngster—"They killed Him! He rose again!"—or by the pen of His inspired apostle: "He was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification!" (Rom. 4:25).

This is God's richest blessing to each of you as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter—the highest point in our church year, and the queen of feasts—"He rose again."

Surely this is news too good to keep! The Son of God who was dead is gloriously **alive**. And we have His pledge and promise that because **He** lives, **we**, too, shall live. Could the God of heaven have given us any headline more thrilling, more electrifying, more worthy of being shouted from the housetops, more worthy as the most precious of gifts to be shared among our family and friends—not only on Easter morning but on every morning of the year?

As we leave worship on Easter morning—on **every** Sunday—may our hearts be bursting with the ineffable joy of our Savior's resurrection. And may that joy find eloquent expression in our daily lives—a burning desire to share this most precious of gifts—"He rose again!"

Then **we** shall experience the holy rapture of the poet who exclaimed: "Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs To all, wherever I might be, What great things God hath done for me".

A most blessed and joyous Easter to each of you!

In Christ, the Gift to be shared,

Pastor Nowak



Marcia Hur 4/2

Anna Rutherford 4/5



John & Diana Russell - 49 years; 4/3

Bess & Jess MacLeod - 12 years; 4/12

*Congratulations and
God's Blessings to All!*

PLEASE NOTE:

All functions at the church have been cancelled until further notice.

For the Sunday morning services and daily devotions, please go to: YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpv2txxNeXN0BCt6d8tP2iw/featured>

OR go to our Facebook page – Facebook.com/Monona-Lutheran-Church-111089293859686/?modal=admin_todo_tour – which will take you to the YouTube video. If you are on Facebook and haven't "liked" us yet, you will need to do that first.

If you would like to receive the Word and Sacrament in your home to make sure your faith remains strong and your inner peace and faith controls your outlook, please call me at 1-516-477-1770. *Pastor Nowak*

Website—We can be proud of our website. With Dr. Krubsack's commentaries on the Sunday lessons, you have the opportunity to preview the lessons as part of your devotions, to better understand the background of those lessons and Sunday's message. Check it out at www.mononalutheran.org.

Calendar and Schedules

There is no calendar or schedules for April available at this time. When things get back to normal, you will be contacted regarding ushering, reading, helping with communion and/or greeting. Thanks for understanding.

LWML Upcoming Events in 2020

Check out their website at LWML-SWD for more details to see if the events are still happening.

LWML-SWD Convention

Saturday – June 20th

St. Paul Lutheran – Grafton

See last page for ingathering items needed.

2020 Fall Retreat

September 11th & 12th

Holiday Inn – Manitowoc

May Monona Messenger Articles are due on or before *April 22nd, 2020*. Articles can be emailed to the church office or dropped off at the church. No late articles, please.

St. Stephen's Food Pantry: Please remember about the little red wagon in the Welcoming Area for St. Stephen's Food Pantry. There is always a need for food pantry items, any time of the year. Donations of food, personal items, paper products, baby food and diapers are all gratefully received. Next time you're out shopping add a couple of things to your cart for the pantry.



Lutheran Hour Ministry Tract Rack: Please note the LHM tract rack in the Welcoming Area. The pamphlets are written on numerous challenges and crises that people experience. Please feel free to take any of the pamphlets

Prayer Chain

Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like *it's* just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, call our Prayer chain. You may give your prayer requests to Angie TerMaat at 608-246-9608, Susan Bartlett at 608-437-5765, or the church office at 222-7071 or call if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

**“Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.”**

Steward Builders

A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.



Standing Alone

Perhaps you've sat on a jury and have been the only one to see the facts in a certain way. Everyone but you voted guilty on the first vote. What did you do the second time around? Did you do the expedient thing and vote with the majority, or did you vote again according to your conscience and face the wrath of eleven others who wanted to wind things up and get back to their lives? Did you go along with the crowd, or did you stand alone?

Joseph of Arimathea was in such a situation. He was on the Council that voted to hand Jesus over to be crucified. He had seen and heard the facts. He knew Jesus was an innocent man. *"Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action"* (Luke 23:50-51).

Scripture very matter of factly states that he *"had not consented to their decision and action."* We might just gloss over those words, not thinking about what lies behind them.

The Council was an important and powerful governing body. That's evident in their ability to get Jesus crucified on false charges. If they could bring about Jesus' death, didn't they have power over Joseph as well? Definitely.

But St. Matthew wrote, *"...Joseph...had himself become a disciple of Jesus"* (Matthew 27:57). This fact makes all the difference! Joseph wasn't standing alone; he was standing with Jesus, his Master!

We, too, are disciples of Jesus. He gives us the gifts necessary to do His work, and He gives us the courage required to be His disciple. Should no one go with us, we still do not stand alone. Jesus stands with us.



Signs on Churches:

"People who rely most on God rely least on themselves."

"To lift your soul, first bend your knees."

"At the heart of sin is the letter 'I.'"

He Is Risen! And Now . . .

One of the most glorious sections in all of Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 15 where we find the words of St. Paul as he expounds

on Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and subsequent appearances to His disciples. He writes about the implications of those events that, just as we all died in Adam, so in Christ we are all made alive and that, just as Christ has a new glorified body, so shall we put off the perishable and be raised with an imperishable body. What a glorious passage! This is what Easter means to us!

Without taking a breath, Paul then continues, "Now about the collection for God's people" (1 Corinthians 16:1). To our minds these two themes don't fit together. Certainly thoughts about the collection don't belong in an Easter message, do they? Paul thinks they do, and why not? First, how do we respond to such a great gift as our salvation? Since God has poured out on us the treasures of His grace, will we not want to make a tangible expression of thanksgiving? Second, with a dying world around us, will we not want to expedite the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel message? "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The Low Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 6:30 PM. Please use the back door.

Is It Worth It?

A common complaint is that we are not appreciated. The mother gets the kids off to school, transfers them to games and lessons, prepares a delicious dinner, and receives no

thanks and may, in fact, be criticized for being a few minutes late or forgetting the milk money in the lunch.

The worker stays late, placates the disagreeable client, and lands the big contract without so much as a pat on the back.

It's enough to make you wonder if it's worth it. Do you think Jesus wondered? He healed ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him. When the Jewish leaders ganged up on Him, even His most trusted and loyal followers fled, and one vehemently denied even knowing Him.



But, you see, appreciation and thanks are not what Jesus was focusing on. Even though He is God, He "made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . . . He humbled Himself and became obedient to death" (Philippians 2:7, 8). He was obedient to God. He came to earth to give His life in exchange for ours, and He didn't look for praise or thanks from us.

Remembering this and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), we follow His example. We are stewards who desire only to please our Father in Heaven. He is the One Who will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 5th
Services cancelled

Maundy Thursday April 9th
Services cancelled

Good Friday April 10th
Services cancelled

Saturday April 11th **Prayer Vigil**
Cancelled



Easter Celebration April 12th
w/Communion **Breakfast 7:30 a.m.**
Worship 9:00 a.m.

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Easter Breakfast: Please join us on Easter morning, April 12th, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast. Our hosts this year will be the Church Properties and the Christian Nurture & Youth Teams. The church service with communion begins at 9 am. If you have any questions, ask Gary Steingraber or a Council member.

The next Healing Service will hopefully be held again on **Sunday, May 10th**, after the service. If you have a burden or sickness that you would like to commend to the Lord, this would be a great time to do so. Copies of the service can be found on the table in the narthex for your convenience.

Agrace Hospice Care: Who is eligible for care?

Hospice is a special blend of medical, emotional and spiritual care for people in the last months of life—and their families. Hospice care is for people who:

- Have any serious illness that cannot be cured,
- Are expected to live six months or less, and
- Are seeking *comfort*, not a cure.

When you enroll with Agrace HospiceCare, our specially trained staff and volunteers work together with you, your family and your doctor, to help you stay comfortable and meet your life goals. The members of your Agrace care team will visit you as often as you need, usually a few times a week. We also teach your family how they can help you between our visits.

Pop Tab Collection: Don't forget we are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Just put them in the container on the counter of the Welcoming Area. *RMHC* collects pull tabs for two reasons:

1. Pull tabs have significant value in the recycling industry as they represent the purest form of aluminum.
2. RMHC does not have the storage space to collect cans.



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is starting a preschool this coming Fall. There are brochures available with information on the table in the Welcoming Area. If you have any interest, please feel free to contact them at 608-238-5656.

Blood Drive: There will be a *Blood Drive* at Lake Edge UCC on Tuesday, April 7th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please consider donating if you are able. Any questions, please contact Ann Rubin.

Flower Calendar: If you would like to give flowers on a particular Sunday – from your garden or a store – please sign up on the Sign-Up sheet hanging in front of the office.

Words to Ponder

Life is a sacred trust, and so is the time in which we live it. It is God's intention that we, His people, fill our time with worthwhile activities in the service of God and others.

Time is our life. If we waste time, we waste life.

Time, like money, is important, but, unlike money, it **cannot be stored up**. We can use time only when it is there. Some of us are given long lives, some short, but all of us are given the same 1440-minute or 24-hour day. We need not be overly concerned as to how many of these days God will give us, but rather use each day wisely to please Him by being fruitful.

All the **time** we have **is a gift from God**, and we are to be fruitful stewards with His time.

Portals of Prayer is a great little devotional book that you can use for daily reading. The April, May and June issue is available on the tables in the Narthex and Welcoming Area. Feel free to stop in and pick up one for yourself and/or share with a friend.

MONONA MESSENGER

Newsletter of: Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC-MS
4411 Monona Dr.
Monona, WI 53716

Address Service Requested



Divine Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Monday Evening 6:30 p.m.

Communion Services

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Midweek Lenten & Advent

Vespers 6:30 p.m.

NO Monday Worship on Legal Holidays

Sunday Christian Education Hour

Adult Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 am Sept. - May

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Nowak

Office Phone: 608.222.7071

E-mail: mlc-ms@hotmail.com

Website: www.mononalutheran.org

LWML-SWD Convention – St. Paul Lutheran Church - Grafton Saturday, June 20, 2020

Ingathering items needed for:

Lutheran Special School & Education Services (LSSES)

Pencils – Regular and Colored
Pens – Black and Blue ink
Markers – Thin, Thick, Sharpie, Dry Erase
Disinfecting Wipes
1-inch 3 Ring Binders
Crayola Model Magic
Glue Sticks
Stickers
Winter boots and warm socks – children’s sizes
Hats, mittens, gloves, snow pants – children’s sizes

A Place of Refuge

Toddler/Beginner Bibles
Pampers or Huggies Diapers – Sizes 2-6
Fragrance free hygiene products for adults & children
Johnson & Johnson Baby Wash
Coconut oil from the health and beauty aisle
Sippy cups
Any size new sleepers
SpaghettiOs and the like (canned pasta)
Blank Journal books

*Information on both of these organizations can be found in the February 2020 SWD Mission Lamp on page 10.
Both of them are Recognized Service Organizations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching”