



# **MONONA MESSENGER**

## **APRIL 2022**

### **THE LAST WEEK**

Many people sitting in a doctor's office have heard the grim announcement: "You have six weeks to live." What if you received that news? What if you were told, "one week"? How would you spend it? Take a minute to think about it.

We're about to enter Holy Week, the last week of Jesus' life on earth. How did He spend it? Luke 19 describes Jesus' Triumphal Entry in Jerusalem on the day we commonly call Palm Sunday. The next three chapters record Jesus' activities during that Holy Week. If you look at the headings in your Bible, you may see the following subjects: "Jesus Cleanses the Temple"; "The Parable of the Wicked Tenants"; "Paying Taxes to Caesar"; "Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection"; "Whose Son is the Christ?"; "The Widow's Offering"; "Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple, Wars and Persecution, Destruction of Jerusalem"; "The Coming of the Son of Man"; "The Lesson of the Fig Tree"; "Watch Yourselves".

It appears that Jesus was pretty busy that last week. He was busy about His Father's business, as He had been since the age of 12 when His parents found Him in the temple teaching the teachers. By stories and parables, through questions and answers, He was trying to reach the hearts of all, calling them to repentance and faith, warning them about the days to come, and promising His presence and help during times of persecution. He was doing during His last week what He had done throughout His ministry.

We, too, should be about our Father's business. We should lead our lives so that whether we have years or just days we will be helping the helpless, befriending the lonely, visiting the sick, sharing the Gospel in word and deed. Every week should be lived as if it were the last week.

Join us this easter and Easter season as we hold in awe and celebrate the completion of the Father's business—Christ Crucified, Christ Risen! Holy week begins April 10<sup>th</sup> with Palm Sunday as we make our way with Jesus to the cross—Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

This is the highest point of the church year. So unbelievable is the message of Christ crucified, Christ risen that we can't keep it to ourselves, but live everyday sharing the Gospel in Word and deed. Come and see, then go and tell!

In Christ, the gift to be shared

*Pastor Nowak*



## LWML NEWS

**Easter Choir:** We will be assembling the choir for our Easter services. We will have rehearsal on SUNDAY mornings after worship on 3/27, 4/3, and 4/10. Please feel free to get a cup of coffee and a treat from the welcoming area, then join us in the choir loft. We will be singing another new work by Judie Krubsack. Thank you, *Judie!*

*New members are always welcome!*



### Mid-Week Services & Themes 2022

#### Date      Theme – The Wisdom of The Cross

Wednesday, March 30 – *The Cross of the Ascent*

Wednesday, April 6 – *The Arced Cross*



April 10 – *Palm/Passion Sunday w/Communion*  
9:00 a.m.

April 14 – *Maundy Thursday w/Communion*  
6:30 p.m.

April 15 – *Good Friday Service*  
7:00 p. m.

April 17 – *Easter Sunday Pre-Service Coffee hour*  
8:00 a.m.

*Worship Service w/Communion*  
9:00 a.m.

#### May 2022 Messenger Deadline:

*Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

*No Late Articles*

*Please submit articles by this date. Email to: [mlc-ms@hotmail.com](mailto:mlc-ms@hotmail.com) OR leave a copy in the office.*

#### **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.”**

#### **LWML Gathering:**

Our next meeting will be *April 14<sup>th</sup>* at 9:00 a.m. We will go back to meeting on the *2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday* of each month. We'll continue our project of sewing pillowcase dresses with the goal of completing 80 dresses before the SWD LWML convention on *June 18<sup>th</sup>*. We welcome all women of the church to join us for bible study and fellowship.

#### **Upcoming LWML dates to keep in mind:**

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Spring gathering at Bethlehem Sun Prairie

June 18<sup>th</sup> – LWML SWD district convention – registration forms are on the LWML bulletin board.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – SWD Fall Retreat

I'm happy to give anyone a ride to any of these events, *Ellen*

#### **Orphan Grain train assistance to the Ukrainian Crisis:**

Due to the volatile circumstances and unprecedented nature of the Ukrainian crisis Orphan Grain Train is launching an immediate response to assist them. They will be sending the requested items via air cargo and sea containers will follow into the future. The expense of air cargo and medical supplies is going to be high, but these poor people need our help now. The greatest need will be monetary so if you are able to make a donation it can be placed in an envelope in our offering plate with a notation that it is for Orphan Grain Train. **All** of the money collected will go directly to Christian missionaries that are working with the refugees. The first air cargo shipment will be on *April 12<sup>th</sup>*.

In addition they are requesting the following items:

- *Hygiene items:*  
soap, towels, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes, combs, band aids, shampoo, nail clippers, creams and lotions
- *Thermal long underwear for kids through adult*
- *Men's clothing and work boots*
- *Quilts & blankets*
- *Medical trauma kits*
- *Diapers and baby formula*
- *New socks and underwear*

If you would like to donate any of the requested items, please leave them near the coat rack and we will get them to the packing station in Westfield. Thank you.

*Steve and Ellen Peck*



**Coffee & Treats:** We will once again have coffee and sweets on Sunday mornings. Pastor has agreed to make the coffee every Sunday but we need **you** to sign up to bring a sweet treat to go with that coffee – if you have not already done so. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Welcoming Area. The more people sign up, the less times you will need to sign up.



# *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.



## **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 the apostle 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...*" 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).

## **In the Palm of His Hand**

Our Father, Who loves us so much, sent His own beloved Son to this earth to be born to a young mother and her carpenter husband. This Child, Who was and is King, was born in a stable, surrounded by animals, not servants. Shortly after His birth, His parents were forced to flee to escape the wrath of a jealous king who, in an effort to eliminate all competition, killed all male children under the age of two. But the Heavenly Father held His Son in the palm of His hand. No harm came to Him until the appointed time.

None of these events came as a surprise to the Father. He was aware of the conditions in the world. He chose humble people to be His Son's parents. He knew what would happen on Maunday Thursday and Good Friday. Nothing that occurred was beyond His control. He held His Son in the palm of His hand.

That beloved Son is our Good Shepherd, and no less watchful is His care for us. He comes to us and gives us faith so that we, His sheep, can recognize His voice. Jesus' own words tell us this is true: *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand"* (John 10:27-28).



Therefore, we have nothing to fear! Family problems, loss of job, uncertainty of the future – we are secure in His hand, for He will allow no one to separate us from Him. He holds us in the palm of His hand.

### **Carry Your Own Load**

When things are going well and we achieve some success, it is easy to forget that it is God Who gives us our gifts and soon we are using them for our own glory, rather than His.

Whether God gives us many talents or few, we are accountable to God for what we do with them. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God"* (Romans 14:12). *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of*

*Christ, so that each one may receive what is due him for the things done in the body, whether good or evil"* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

In the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25, Jesus spoke about being accountable. Jesus said that a man going on a journey entrusted three servants with different amounts of talents (money). Upon his return, he found that two of the servants had demonstrated their faithfulness by prudently investing their talents. When the master heard they had doubled the amount they had been given, he praised them and gave them even greater responsibility. The one servant who did nothing with his talent received the master's wrath.

Our Savior came to earth with a job to do. He held Himself accountable to carry out His task even though it caused Him extreme anguish (Luke 22:44). Joyfully (Hebrews 12:2), willingly He went to the cross for us, faithfully fulfilling His purpose of saving sinners.

We, too, will be held accountable for the blessings which God entrusts to us. Through faith, God can strengthen and equip us so we can hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:21).

### **Why We Give?**

1. To express our gratitude (Psalm 116:12)
2. To honor God (Proverbs 3:9)
3. To support the ministers of God and His Church (Philippians 4:15-16)
4. To help those in need (2 Cor. 9:12).
5. To be obedient (1 Corinthians 16:2)

**Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!**

## BLOOD DRIVES

Monona Grove High School hosted a blood drive at Monona Lutheran Church on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the last blood drive for the seniors who will be graduating this June. They have had many successful drives here at MLC and they appreciated the support they received from our church.

The last drive saw 61 people that came through the doors. There were deferrals for 9 people. Fifty four units of whole blood and seven double reds or power reds were completed. The total units donated were 59.

Our next drive will be on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Lake Edge UCC (Alliance@4200) on Buckeye Road. If you are interested in donating, please contact me and I will be able to help with the appointment times.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Monona Lutheran Church will host a drive so watch for more details. *Ann Rubin*



Thanks



**Healing Service:** The next Healing Service will take place on *April 10<sup>th</sup>* following 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.



### GIFTS FROM THE HEART



We have collected many items for *Gifts from the Heart* which this year is supporting our local charities and those in need.

The hearts on the Big Red Board are supporting *Porchlight*, a local organization helping those without permanent housing. The cash donations will be sent to support *Lutheran Church Charities* and their comfort dog program.

We are collecting these items through Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support. *Nate Dowse*



## *CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL*

### *BIRTHDAYS*

Marcia Hur 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Anna Rutherford 5<sup>th</sup>



### *ANNIVERSARIES*

*Bess & Jess MacLeod - 14 years; April 12<sup>th</sup>*



*CONGRATULATIONS and  
GOD'S BLESSINGS TO ALL*

### ATTENTION

Have you filled out an emergency contact form already? If not, it is not too late to do so. We would like to have two people listed as emergency contacts and how they are related to you. The forms are kept in the User's room.

We have cards for you to fill out legibly or if you don't feel comfortable coming to church yet, you can call the office and give us your information so we have it on hand when you do return.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study:

 Please join us after the service as we continue to look at the book of *Job*.

**Ride needed?** If you would like to come to church on a Sunday morning or during our mid-week services but have no way of getting here, please feel free to call one of the congregation members. 

**Portals of Prayer:** The April, May, and June issue of the *Portals of Prayer* are available on the table in the Narthex and also in the Welcoming Area. Please be sure to pick one up for yourself and one for a friend. 

**St. Stephen's Food Pantry:** There is always a need for food pantry items. Next time you are out shopping, please add a couple of things to your cart for the Food Pantry. Donations of food, personal items, paper products, baby food and diapers are always gratefully received. Any items can be put in the little red wagon in the Welcoming Area.

MONONA MESSENGER  
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. (Not at present time)

**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

**Stewardship Thought**

**Sharing the Gospel**

God's plan for His people has always been that we take responsibility for sharing Jesus' love. Peter wrote, "*Always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you*" (1 Peter 3:15). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will give us the words and the courage to use them. Along with most people, we are eager to talk about the weather, sports, economy, or politics, but, as Christians, we have been given the treasure of the Gospel message—something vastly more important to talk about. Our attitude should be like that of Peter and John, who, when commanded to stop speaking of Christ, said, "*We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20). We should want people to know there is a God Who cares for us and is almighty and powerful, yet loving and compassionate. This is the Good News that we as stewards of the Gospel want to share. May God give us courage to use the opportunities He gives us.



**Prayer:** *Father, help me to be bold and clear in my witness to others. In Jesus' name, Amen*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**"Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching"**