

From the Pastor,

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST -
OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

As we approach the celebration of Easter, it is important for us to understand what makes this day so special for us as Christians. On Easter we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus' resurrection is of great comfort to us because it **definitely proves:**

1. That Christ is the Son of God. Jesus repeatedly told the Jews that He is the Son of God (Jn. 5:17-23; 10:30). The Jews didn't believe the many miracles Jesus performed before their very eyes. They asked Him for a sign from heaven as proof of His divine authority. Jesus answered by pointing to His resurrection, "Destroy this temple (that is, Jesus' body), and I will raise it up again in three days. (Jn. 2:19) Since Christ did arise He was by this resurrection declared to be the true Son of God. (Ro. 1:4)

2. That His doctrine is truth. All that He taught about Himself proves true in His resurrection. Jesus was no fraud.

3. That God the Father has accepted the sacrifice of His Son for the reconciliation of the world. The resurrection proves that Christ did really atone for our sins. Since it was God Himself who raised up Christ, God thereby declared that full satisfaction was rendered, that all sins are forgiven, and that we are just and righteous before Him. Each person can make that forgiveness his own by faith in the work of Christ.

4. That all believers shall rise unto eternal life. The resurrection of our Lord proves that there is such a thing as a resurrection of the dead, and that for all believers there is a resurrection unto life. Christ, who raised Himself from death, has the power to raise us from death too, and to give to us eternal life. He said, "Because I live, you shall live also." (Jn. 14:19)

When Christ comes again in glory on the last day, those believers who have passed away from this life will experience a resurrection. Their risen bodies will then be "spiritual" bodies, in contrast to their character in this life, as incorruptible, glorious, and vigorous. We will no longer be subject to the effects of sin, - all will be perfect.

Easter points us to the future. Easter means hope in a world that seems to be getting worse

every day as sin abounds. I pray that your celebration of Jesus' resurrection is meaningful this year.

In Christ, the Life and Hope,
Pastor Wayne

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OUR LENTEN-HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- 4/17 Confirmation Questioning - 9:00 am in the basement
- 4/17 Confirmation cake and coffee - 10:00 am in the basement
- 4/17 Confirmation/Communion service - 10:30 am
- 4/21 Seder Meal - 5:30 pm
- 4/21 Maundy Thursday Communion - 7:00 pm
- 4/22 Good Friday Tenebrae - 7:00 pm
- 4/23 Holy Saturday - movie "Passion of Christ"
- 4/24 Easter Sunrise Worship - 6:00 am
- 4/24 Easter Breakfast - after church

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PRISCILLA CLUB:

- Next Meeting: April 14, 2011, at 1:00 P.M.
- Where: Lange Fellowship Hall
- Hostess: Tracy Ballard
- Devotion: Planting a Relationship Garden
- Human Care: The end of winter can make us a bit out of sorts when things go wrong or we get bumped.

What spills out of you when you get bumped? Is it a gentle beep and a friendly wave when a driver ignores the fact that the light turned green? Is it a smile and a cheerful word when you get on the elevator or walk down the aisle at the supermarket? Is it a gentle reply to a weary child when you have had a day full of stress? What spills out of you is your act of Human Care.

Prepare Mother's Day cards.

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FELLOWSHIP BOARD REPORT

There is a sign up sheet in the church narthex for our Lenten soup suppers. Please sign up to provide soup.

Start saving your garage treasures. We are planning another church garage sale sometime in July. You may start bringing items any time and we will store them in the northwest room in the fellowship hall.

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Did you know? After the Reformation, "church" was never the same.,

The whole notion of what constituted a "church service" did a complete turnaround during the Reformation era. To get a sense of just how much things changed, consider the fact that, pre-Reformation, men and women were usually separated during service and there was no singing (instead, choirs of monks would chant).

"The liturgy for laity was primarily visual rather than aural," Edwards explains. "So you go from a ritual led by a priest in Latin ### which most people didn't understand even if they could hear it ### where the high point was to see the raised consecrated host, to a service conducted in the language of the people, with the laity singing, men and women intermingled, with a sermon, and where you receive the bread and the wine in your own hands." This shift to more participatory worship was anything but random. It was a reflection of Luther's belief that the Bible is the only true Christian authority.

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Hope For Tomorrow

As of March 01 2011 we owe \$23,047.25 on the building. In addition, we have some projects still to accomplish such as sidewalks, sound improvement, landscaping, etc. Please continue to give as you are able.

Chuck Poehlein

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In the next few weeks, the Couples Adult Bible Class will have a new topic for their study. "Building Your Mate's Self-Esteem" will be the study to follow the current topic. Watch the Sunday bulletin for start date. Anyone interested in helping their marriage build upon the Blueprints that God established in the Bible, is invited to come share with us at 9am in the Lange Hall. Questions? Call Larry and Cathy Wacker - 783-4144.

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Education Board

Go b-a-a-a-ck in time!

Bring the whole flock to Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid! You'll travel back into Bible times-without setting foot outside our community. Experience this fun, hands-on Bible-times village at Hope Lutheran Church. Each day, your family members can become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown! You'll explore authentic Marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about Jesus' childhood. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate! So mark these dates on your calendar: June 20th through 24th. The adventure starts at 9:00 AM and will end at 12 noon. To become a youth or adult volunteer or just to send the little lambs for this awesome Bible adventure, call 783-3071 or the church office at 783-9773.

Sincerely, Nancy Watkins,
Your Hometown Nazareth Director



Happy Birthday

- 03 Becky Desponette
- 05 Catherine Siemiet
- 05 Tracy Marshall
- 07 Abby Ware
- 07 Ellie Ware
- 08 Autumn Rusher
- 10 Tom Schulze
- 11 Brenda Bosse
- 12 Matt Comerford
- 12 Russ Ware
- 14 Joel Scheiwe
- 17 Mary Nelson
- 21 Kent Patterson
- 21 Kevin Patterson
- 22 Gwynethe Miller
- 23 Weldon Rusher
- 25 Nancy Stewart
- 25 Shawn Trujillo
- 26 Perry Nagel
- 27 Leona Hood

Happy Anniversary!

- 15 Roger & Laurie Cain
- 23 Roger & Janet Holm

Ushers:

- 03 Dan & Lori Fox
- 10 Dale & Gertie Falske
- 17 Chuck & Phyllis Kastendieck
- 24 Bob & Carol Mallett

Lectors:

- 03 Gwynethe Miller
- 06 Larry Luikart (Lenten Service)
- 10 Cathy Wacker
- 13 Doug Tyler (Lenten Service)
- 17 Lisa Frank (Palm Sunday)
- 21 Jeanene Comerford (Maundy Thursday)
- 22 Russ Ware (Good Friday)
- 24 Richard Henderson (Easter)

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Announcements:

The church calendar is in the kitchen downstairs. If you have an event scheduled, please put it on the calendar to avoid conflicting with other activities. Thank you!!!

The Church Newsletter is posted on the Hope Lutheran Church web site. If you don't have internet and would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please call your elder.

Choir practice will be at 5:00 pm during Lent, because the Lenten Soup Suppers are at 6:00 pm.

Help! Help! A brief meeting will be held after church April 10th for all those willing to plan and serve the Easter Sunrise Breakfast. Without your involvement we won't be able to do this. Thanks in advance for your willingness to serve in this way.

"Passion of Christ" - the video - will be shown at church on Holy Saturday, April 23rd at 2:00 pm. There is no charge. Friends are welcome.

YOU ARE INVITED to Potluck (after church) and Voter's Assembly (12:45 pm) on Palm Sunday, April 17th, in the church basement. The Confirmation dinner will be in the Lange Hall.