



The Change of Seasons

by Pastor Laesch

The Bible tells us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1) If anyone knows about seasons and change, it's a person from St. Louis, Missouri! We're all enjoying the special transition from Winter into Spring. And it won't be long before we start sweating in the heat and humidity when Summer comes! Oh, we know about changing seasons.

We at Chapel of the Cross are also in a season of change for our staff. We said a fond and difficult farewell to Ryan Meyer and his family last July. We thank God for their faithful and willing service and we know that God has big plans for their future in Belleville. This change of season for Chapel meant that we entered a time of searching, praying, and calling a new Director of Music.

That process culminated on March 15 with a Divine Call extended to Mr. Timothy Mars to serve as Chapel's new Director of Music. Tim is a graduating senior at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, and if the Lord leads him to accept the Call, he (and his wife Elie and daughter Ruth) would join us at Chapel early this upcoming Summer. Yet another season of change!

This new season of ministry calling needs your prayer support. Please pray that God would lead Timothy to accept the Call extended to him. Please pray that Timothy and Chapel follow God's lead faithfully. Please pray that in all things God's will be done. There is a time and a season for all things, and we wait on Him to lead us forward in this new season. †††

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First Friday Men's Small Group Fellowship

by Bill Rusnak

The men of Chapel of the Cross began something that started very simply - has grown into something genuinely meaningful. A while back, a few guys had a dangerous idea: Let's do lunch together. No agenda. No committee. Just food and conversation. Somewhere along the way, that simple lunch turned into what is now our Men's First Friday Small Group Fellowship.



Now we gather on the **first Friday of most every month at 10:00 a.m.** in the Parlor, and then head out for lunch **before 11:00 a.m.** So yes - this is a short Bible study that respects the clock and understands the 5th Commandment... especially when it comes to supporting our hunger.

Each month includes a **short, focused Bible study** - nothing overwhelming, nothing that requires homework or advanced Greek. This isn't seminary; it's real life. The goal is simple: **to encourage one another, to avoid isolation, and to build each other up according to our needs**, just as Scripture teaches us in Ephesians 4.

What has surprised many of us is how naturally deeper conversations happen. Men who might otherwise just talk about sports - or sit alone—or quietly carry burdens—find a place where faith meets honesty, and where listening is just as important as speaking - even if it does involve the Cardinals.

And since we are Lutheran, there is structure - but also grace. There's Scripture. There's laughter and There's coffee - if you use the Keurig. No one is forced to talk. No one is put on the spot. And no one will be asked to share their feelings... unless they want to. Think of it as Law & Gospel - with lunch as a kind of Means of Grace.

If you've ever thought, **"I should probably be more connected,"** or **"I could use Christian fellowship that actually fits my schedule,"** or even **"Free coffee before lunch sounds like a good Lutheran deal,"** then this group is for you.

So men of Chapel of the Cross - join us. Most First Friday's of the month. Parlor. 10:00 a.m. **We leave for lunch before 11.** Come as you are. Come when you can. And come be encouraged - so that together, we may encourage each other.

Love to see you there. †††

Intentional Listening

by Russell Mains

When listening to others in the course of a conversation or absorbing the wide array of information in our world, I always attempt to utilize a process that I refer to as "intentional listening." I am certain that I am not the first individual to use this term, but it is an extremely effective method of listening with the focused intent of truly comprehending communication.

This intentional listening is particularly important when listening to God's Holy Word in a sermon or Bible Study. However, we are also being spiritually nourished by God's Truth when we read and study Holy Scripture in quiet surroundings; or in any environment. Reading, studying, and meditating upon Scripture involves a different sort of listening in which The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, minds, and souls, and intercedes for us to our Heavenly Father in all circumstances; including times of tribulation, confusion, and tremendous mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual distress; even when we are in such turmoil that we do not realize what we are praying for. The Apostle Paul describes this action of The Holy Spirit in Romans 8:26-27 when he writes, **"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."**

Listen to God with faith. Where does this faith come from? Holy Scripture clearly defines it as a gift from God through The Holy Spirit. NOTHING that human beings can say or do (because of our sinful nature) can reconcile us to God; Jesus Christ has already accomplished this for us. The Holy Spirit speaks to us today in times of joy and sorrow.

God did not send His Only Son to dwell among us, suffer and die for our sins, and rise again in glory only to abandon us. He is with us ALWAYS because HE LIVES, AS WE WILL LIVE ETERNALLY WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS. He has left His Spirit with us, as He said that He would in John 14:25-27, **"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."** What a gift from our loving, merciful God, if we devoutly and humbly LISTEN!

When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John as He spoke with Moses and Elijah, our Heavenly Father spoke to these disciples in Matthew 17:5 saying, **"THIS IS MY SON, WHOM I LOVE; WITH HIM I AM WELL PLEASSED. LISTEN TO HIM!"** When we read God's Holy Word and listen with the Faith and Hope that only The Holy Spirit can give, then Christ truly lives in our hearts, and His "Grace through Faith" opens the gates of eternal life to us; but how are we to use this tremendous gift of HOPE? Should we tuck it away in our hearts, souls, and minds, secure in the knowledge that we have salvation through Christ? (continued on page 4)

Intentional Listening (continued from page 3)

Listen and SHARE the greatest gift ever given to mankind, as Christ commands in Matthew 28:19 **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** Sharing of this Gospel of Hope is essential for our “fallen world.” We are ALL plagued by “original sin” since creation. Sin brings with it violence, hate, killing, racism, illness, natural disasters etc.; and ultimately, death and eternal condemnation.

These are difficult words for human beings to “hear,” because we are devastated by the fact that they surely will occur; but hear and understand we must! The desire of Satan is to mentally, emotionally, and, above all SPIRITUALLY, destroy and condemn us. Satan is the father of lies, and “feel good” messages abound in the world; often within some churches, where people rush to hear what they WANT to hear, rather than what they NEED to hear. Herein lay the urgency of SHARING the Good News of Jesus Christ to as many people as we can. If we truly listen, using Holy Scripture as the standard of God’s Truth, we can share HOPE with the world, because 2 Timothy 4:3-4 tells us, “For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” God’s Truth and Love is the antidote for the sin and conflict in our world as Satan seeks to inundate and confuse us with a cacophony of deceit from sources such as television, films, social media; and technology, such as “artificial intelligence.” Do not be distracted by the “noise.” Share your Hope, as 1 Peter 3:15 declares, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” Practice spiritual discernment; does information conform to Holy Scripture?

The storm clouds have dispersed, the work of Jesus Christ is finished, His tomb is empty and the light of “THE SON” shines upon all people for all time. If we but repent and believe, we also will rise again to live with God eternally. Victory is ours through Christ Jesus! “CHRIST IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN, INDEED; ALLELUIA!” The Apostle Paul reveals this victory and the TRUE, LASTING JOY that is ours in Romans 8:37-39, “No, in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

May we be conduits of the message of God’s Love and Grace to all people and, as Matthew 13:43 joyfully announces, **“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”** †††

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry Update

by Mike and Ellen Kehe

In 2024, our shoeboxes all went to Madagascar. Our 167 boxes from 2025 went to 5 different countries as outlined below:

GUATEMALA (Shipped on: THU DEC 18 2025)

ECUADOR (Shipped on: THU DEC 18 2025)

BOTSWANA (Shipped on: THU DEC 18 2025)

PANAMA (Shipped on: MON DEC 15 2025)

HONDURAS (Shipped on: SAT DEC 13 2025)


Your previous shoebox gift(s) shipped to:

MADAGASCAR (Shipped on: WED DEC 18 2024)



Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Collection of items continues year round, with shoebox packing in November.

"Rain and snow fall from the sky. But they don't return without watering the earth that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat. That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do." Isaiah 55:10-11 †††



HANDBELL CONCERT

On April 19, 2026
4:00 PM

Chapel will be hosting the **Gateway Ringers**.

More details to follow in the church bulletin.

A MUSICAL EVENT FOR ALL

2026 Summer LAMP mission trip to northern Manitoba.

This spring God has been calling people from Chapel of the Cross and other areas to serve Him in remote First Nations communities in northern Manitoba with LAMP. (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) Last year we had 4 teams ready to serve 4 communities, but 3 communities were displaced, affected by wildfires in the north. Only the Churchill team was able to go. But alas, we prepare again and pray for God to make straight the way to serve in the North. Throughout this process we trust God to call, gather, strengthen and equip the servant volunteers for this mission. Our partner church, Good Shepherd, Centralia, Missouri has multiple members willing to serve. As of early March, we have 19 people who have expressed interest in serving... from: COTC and Good Shepherd, also Florida and Texas! Please pray for these teams as they continue to prepare and for the communities we plan to serve: Lynn Lake, Brochet, Marcell Colomb Reserve, (near Lynn Lake), and Churchill Manitoba. Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of this mission.

Our communities are in Manitoba: #3, #4, (near #4) and #19.



LAMP Communities



LAMP
4966 - 92nd Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6B 2V4



LAMP Ministry Inc.
Box 480167, New Haven, MI 48048

Phone: 1-800-307-4036

KEY: Staff missionaries' home here

www.lampministry.org

TRIVIA NIGHT

by Bill Rusnak

Our 2026 Silent Auction and Trivia Night was Saturday, March 7 - Supporting Chapel's Missions and Outreach - was a remarkable success. Teams and individual participants were welcomed at the door and trivia started at 6:30 p.m. 9 tables of 8 or less enjoyed eight rounds of ten questions. Special thanks to everyone on the team who made this event possible!

Our Trivia Master of Ceremonies: Jerry Bowen; Our two Trivia Judges and Registrars: Keith Otto and Marilyn Kreitner. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the entire team: Our Attendance Prize gatherer and coordinator, Venmo source, Prize and favors provider, Powerpoint creator and Trivia questions authenticator: Jennifer Krupp! Our Head Silent Auction organizer: Sandy Otto; Our Concessions team: Bill and Lois Westbrook and Jon Rogers; our auction items gatherers, donations resources and registration and check-out members.



We thank Carolyn Manno, John Zvirgzdins, Jayme and Jay Zvirgzdins for untold behind-the-scenes actions. We appreciate Pastor Ellory and Kathy Glenn, Ken Gerler, Julie Griffith, Cathy Crosier, Joe Miano, Doris Truetken, Sandy Otto, Ellen and Mike Kehe, and others who remain anonymous. In total, our team raised just under \$3,000 to support our Missions and Outreach. To God be all glory - Bill Rusnak †††

PRAYER WALK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On Sat. morning April 4 we had an opportunity to join up with a friend to;

- **Meet at church at 9:30** to pray God's blessings
- **Pair up** to take a walk on the streets near our church
- **Knock on a door** and greet with a smile
- **Invite** to our worship and give information
- **Offer to pray** for any special needs.

By 11:00, returned to church to share our experiences and closed with prayer.

We shared our hope and the good news that Christ is Risen!

CROSSROADS SUBMISSIONS:

Contributions for the Summer issue of the CrossRoads are due by Sunday, June 7. Please submit both a paper copy to the CrossRoads box as well as a digital copy, if possible, (including any pictures) emailed to office@chapelofthecross.org

Building a Bridge at Chapel of the Cross

by Bill Rusnak

At Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church in North St. Louis, we believe bridges are meant to be crossed - and built. While many people know bridge as a classic card game of strategy, skill, and a little friendly competition, our church sees it as something even more meaningful: a connection between people. That's why we're delighted to welcome members of the Greater St. Louis Bridge Unit. Sure, there will be cards on the tables, but more importantly, there will be conversations, laughter, and new friendships. In other words, we're not just dealing cards - we're dealing in community.



The Greater St. Louis Bridge Unit, originally founded in 1988 as the Greater St. Louis Bridge Council and affiliated with the American Bridge Association, has long been a cornerstone for bridge enthusiasts throughout the region. At one time, the organization included more than 500 members, and today about 90 dedicated players remain active across five clubs: Metropolitan (the oldest), Ace High, University City, Richmond Heights, and Northside. The Unit continues to host weekly games, quarterly nationwide games, and a major multi-day Grade "A" tournament that attracts players from across the region. Their leadership—including President Celeste Williams, Vice-President Denorce Starks, Secretary Linda Spencer, Financial Secretary Annie Mays, and Treasurer Richard Buckley - helps keep the cards moving and the friendships growing.



But perhaps the most exciting part is that bridge is always building new players. Through beginner classes and instruction led by experienced teachers such as Michelle Cotton, Annie Mays, Cassandra and Albert Wallace, Cheryl Ward, Felicia Childs, Linda Spencer, and Celeste Williams, new players learn the game every week. And here at Chapel of the Cross, we're happy to provide a place where those lessons - and those connections - can happen. After all, whether in cards or in church life, the goal is the same: bringing people together, one hand at a time. And don't worry if you're new - at our church the only thing you might trump is loneliness. †††

The Counterintuitive Nature of Christ

by Gary Timm

One day during Sunday morning Bible study it struck me how so often Jesus flips things around, teaching us to do exactly the opposite of our natural inclination. I decided to do a little research, and using some modern technology produced the following list of examples.

- Love your enemies – Challenges our instinct to retaliate.
- The first will be last – Greatness comes through servanthood.
- Lose your life to save it – Spiritual life comes through surrender of self.
- The poor and persecuted are blessed – Redefines success and happiness.
- Forgive repeatedly – Forgiveness becomes a lifestyle.
- Give in secret – The reward sought determines the value of the act.
- Do not store up earthly treasure – Seek not temporal but eternal security.
- Turn the other cheek – It's not about you.
- The good Samaritan – Love crosses boundaries.
- The laborers in the vineyard – Grace not merit.
- The prodigal son – Forgive and celebrate repentance.
- Sell all and follow me – Earthly wealth does not bring eternal security.
- The widow's offering – Giving measured by devotion and sacrifice.
- Whoever exalts himself will be humbled – True honor comes from God.

Why are Christ's teachings counterintuitive? I didn't have to think long before the answer came to me. Sin. I hadn't thought of it this way before, but we are so steeped in sin that so many of our natural inclinations run counter to what God would have us do; such is the magnitude of the divide between us and God. Thankfully, there are more counterintuitive acts that serve as a bridge to cross that gap. Or as a songwriter put it, there is a cross to bridge that gap.

Thanks be to God:

For the ultimate counterintuitive act - The Cross - where amidst human shame, ridicule and weakness, Jesus - with the words "It is finished." - proclaimed His work of redemption is complete and victory over sin, death and the devil is accomplished.

And for God's counterintuitive Grace where the victory is made ours through the goodness and mercy He bestowed on undeserving sinners such as you and me.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God - 1 Corinthians 1:18 †††

MARY-MARTHA GUILD

Chapel members and guests are always welcome and invited to attend our meetings. The Mary-Martha Guild members would like to thank the congregation for their support of the Spring bake sale.

We will hold our regular meeting on Monday, April 13. This month our guests will be the Florissant Barbershoppers. The group includes Chapel members Bill Westbrook and Ken Gerler. We will also have an Ingathering for Friends of Moms.

On Monday, May 11, the Guild will be doing a service project. We will be making prayer jars.

Our annual Installation Dinner will be held on Monday, June 8, here at church in the Commons area. It will again be catered by Catering to You.



Kirk Mueller

YOUR LIFETIME PLAN FOR GIVING

Have you left a lasting legacy of your faith?

Have you blessed your family in the best way?

Have you remembered your favorite ministries?

As you can answer "yes" to each of these questions, I know you will experience the peace and joy of knowing God has blessed you to be a blessing.

To find out more, contact:

Kirk Mueller—LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136

314.704.4389

Kirk.mueller@lcms.org



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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

RELEASE:

Christopher Hilker

Former number of members:	846
Gains:	+0
Losses:	-1
New number of members:	845

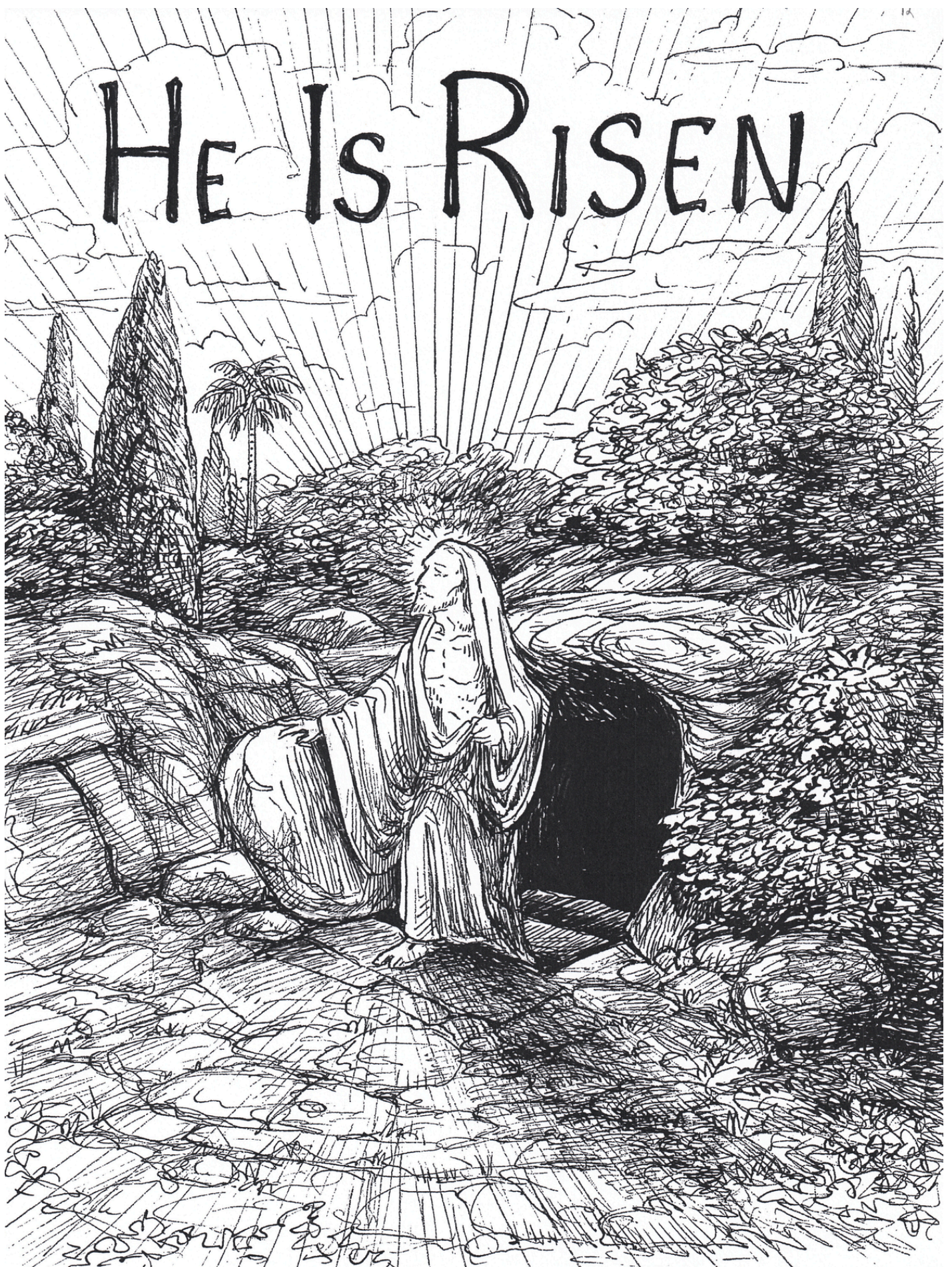
Did You Know?

1. Near what city did Jesus heal blind Bartimaeus?
A. Jericho B. Damascus C. Nazareth
2. How many stones did Joshua command the men to take out of Jordan?
A. 4 B. 8 C. 12
3. What did the cloud cover by day, and the appearance of fire by night?
A. The tabernacle B. The temple C. The fishing boats
4. These people observed days, months, times and years. Paul feared them.
A. Romans B. Assyrians C. Galatians
5. Who wrote to the seven churches which are in Asia?
A. Nathaniel B. John C. Simon Zelotes
6. This book is dedicated to the leaders, deliverers, champions who delivered Israel from foreign oppressions.
A. Genesis B. Judges C. Leviticus
7. This Israelite had understanding in all visions and dreams.
A. Daniel B. Abednego C. Shadrach
8. With a loud voice, who said "Lazarus, come forth?"
A. Mary B. Martha C. Jesus
9. The sun and moon stayed; shadow put back for these men.
A. Moses-Aaron B. Abraham-Lot C. Joshua-Hezekiah
10. This queen (Jewish) was called to reserve the Jews.
A. Esther B. Vashti C. Jezebel

Answers

1. A., Jericho, Mark 10:46-52
2. C., 12, Joshua 4:1-5
3. A., The tabernacle, Numbers 9:15-16
4. C., Galatians, Galatians 4:10-11
5. B., John, Revelation 1:4
6. B., Judges, Judges
7. A., Daniel, Daniel 1:17
8. C., Jesus, John 11:43
9. C., Joshua-Hezekiah, Joshua 10:12, 2 Kings 20:11
10. A., Esther, Esther 4:13-14

HE IS RISEN



APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			2 Maundy Thursday Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 pm Homebound/Senior Luncheon 12:00	3 Good Friday Services Noon & 6:30 p.m. Office Closed	4 Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Community Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.	
5 Easter Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	6	7 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	8 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	9 Choral Singers 7:00 -8:30 p.m.	10	11 Womens Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
12 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	13 Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	14	15 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	16 Choral Singers 7:00 -8:30 p.m.	17 LHSN Faith in Action 9-11 a.m.	18 Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
19 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Gateway Ringers Concert	20	21 Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Family Night 5:30 -7:30 p.m.	22 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	23 Choral Singers 7:00 -8:30 p.m.	24	25 Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
26 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Confirmation	27 Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	28	29 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	30 Choral Singers 7:00 -8:30 p.m.	Notes:	

March 2026

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May 2026

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MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
3 Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	4 Ladies Bible Study 10?00 a.m.	5 Ladies Bible Study 10?00 a.m.	6 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	7 Choral Singers 7:00 -8:30 p.m.	1 Men's Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and lunch 11:00 a.m.	2 Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																																		
10 Mother's Day Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	11 Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	12	13 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	14 Ascension Service 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Subdivision Meeting 9:00 - 11:00 in gym Worship Service 5:00 p.m.																																																																																																		
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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PAID

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
PERMIT NO. 2656

Weekend Worship Services

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Education Hour

(Sunday School, Youth, & Adult Classes)
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

