

RLC Genesis

April Newsletter



Upcoming Worship Schedule

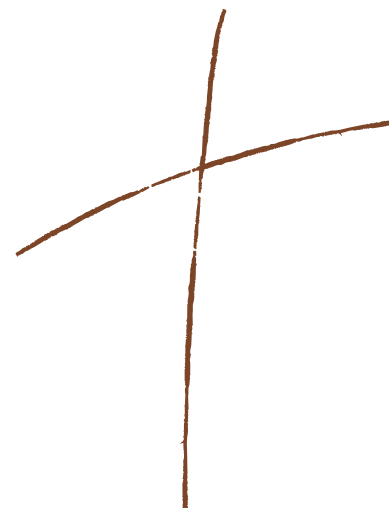
Palm Sunday - April 2 at 9am (Youth serving brunch following worship)

Maundy Thursday - April 6 at 6:30pm

Good Friday - April 7 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday:

- Sunrise Service at 7am
- Celebration Service at 9am
- Outreach Committee serving a light breakfast from 7:30am - 10:30am



Just a Note...

Spring has always been my absolute favorite time of year. Waking up to the sound of birds chirping each morning, the buds starting to form on the trees, the crisp morning air and fresh breeze, NO BUGS, the growing hours of daylight, and the spring flowers beginning to emerge from the thawing ground... Every spring, I am amazed that nature knows just what to do to wake from winter's hibernation, and you can just feel the change in the air. After those long, dark, bleak days of winter, a new reality emerges, and with it comes warmth and new hope.

As we gather together to celebrate Holy Week, we start to feel a definite change in the air as well, as the Palm Sunday crowd who at first shouted "Hosanna" suddenly flips and begins chanting that chilling phrase, "Crucify him!" We again acknowledge the harsh reality of the cross and the crown of thorns, and then we are drawn to the cool, damp, and dark tomb...the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid, and along with it, all of the disciples' hopes and dreams. Or so they thought...

After those long, dark, bleak few days when the tomb was sealed and the disciples lived in fear and grief, hope began to emerge with the announcement of the empty tomb. A new reality was on the horizon. It's amazing how a "Son-rise" can dispel the darkness of night in such a brilliant way! The crucifixion was not the end of God's work in the world. It was simply the end of a season. That is the good news that we can hold onto in this Easter season.

Just as miraculous as the coming of spring, the resurrection of Jesus awakens our souls with warmth and new hope, calling us out of our fears and grief with the powerful news that Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Let's live each day in the amazement that our God knew just what to do to spiritually awaken this world from its slumber. And let's be among the disciples who continue to go and share that Good News with others.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Welcome New Members!



On Sunday, March 19, we welcomed the following new members to RLC:

- Karen Clapp
- Stacy Kirby, Jack & Erin
- David Krzenski

Please take the opportunity to introduce yourselves and welcome them, as together we grow in faith and discipleship here at RLC!

A Little "Eggstra"

In an excerpt from a verse in Proverbs we find, "One gives freely yet grows all the richer", during Stewardship Sunday we read how a few fish and loaves of bread fed many, and during the season of Easter we are reminded of God's greatest gift – his son Jesus. In reflecting on the mission of our church we recognize that a solid foundation is needed to continue to serve as a source of strength, hope, and truth for many. During Easter, this season of new beginnings, we would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider giving a little "Eggstra" to help build that foundation.

For three weeks, starting with Palm Sunday, you will receive Easter Eggs that contain a thank you. We invite you to refill the egg with any "EggStra" loose change, bills, or online giving and return the egg in the offering basket or in the basket as you exit the service. May you experience the power of God's love in all you do.

Thank you! ~the Stewardship Committee~



From Worship and Music Coordinator

First off, thank you to all who have enhanced worship and music throughout Lent, especially those who did monologues, sang in the choir, participated as pianists and worship team, and all that makes our worship meaningful.

A word on the dogwood branches that are making an appearance, end of Lent and through Easter. A southern legend has it that the dogwood was once a large and towering tree and, therefore, used for Jesus' cross. It became cursed by God to become just a small tree with crooked branches, good for little. However, it was also blessed in that it bursts forth in white blossoms in the spring. The blossoms have a cross shape and indentations at the tips to remind us of the nails in Jesus' hands and feet. Google it for more of the legend. Thanks to Steve Streng for cutting a supply for our church.

A little more on our ELW hymnal: It has the catechism printed in the back. That is a great review for those raised Lutheran, a tool for those getting familiar with our denomination, and a quick reminder of what we believe.

We will be learning Setting 8 from the ELW during the Easter season. It has some very uplifting parts...be patient and we'll soon be familiar with it.

Let me know if you have something you'd like to see in worship – or omitted.

Thanks,
Carol



First Communion Celebration!

On Maundy Thursday (April 6), the following children will be receiving their First Communion:

- Elle Marie Ahrndt
- Sophia Burnos
- Charlie Burnos
- Eleanor Roberta Curtis
- Will Krueger
- Landon Perry
- Emma Gladys Pogatchnik
- Max Siegel
- Macie Siegel



These kiddos attended First Communion class on March 26 and learned the importance of celebrating communion with one another and of hearing those words...this is the body and blood of our Lord and Savior given for YOU. What an incredible gift that is and a powerful reminder that we are claimed, loved, and forgiven thanks to the amazing love of our God. Congratulations on celebrating this faith milestone, Elle, Sophia, Charlie, Eleanor, Will, Landon, Emma, Max, and Macie! We are excited to celebrate this moment with you!

Let us "Bake" Bread Together...

A special thank you to Kathy Haselhorst for baking communion bread with our First Communion class. The kids enjoyed the fun "hands-on" experience and were excited to take samples home to enjoy!



A BIG thank you!!

Thank you everyone who provided food for our Lenten soup suppers this year and to all who assisted with our midweek services. A special note of thanks to our monologue readers who each portrayed a Bible character during our midweek services:

- Susan Curtis (Peter's Mother-in-law)
- Steve Streng (Lazarus)
- Carol Olson (Martha)
- Gary Kraft (Thomas)
- Sandy Spiczka (Mary Magdalene)

Table Talk – April 30

One Sunday a month during the remainder of the school year, we will begin holding Table Talk time for adults. This is a time to meet and discuss various topics of interest pertaining to our lives of faith.

At our first Table Talk, we discussed the topic of grief. Our next session will be held on April 30 and will be an informal discussion on the topic of walking by faith. The discussion will take place in the Fireside Room during our time of fellowship, from 10:15 – 10:45am. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

Zoom Bible Study!

Join us for morning Bible study via Zoom on Thursdays at 9am! Together we look at and discuss the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great group with good conversation, and there's no participation pressure. Tune in and share, or just tune in and listen. We'd love to have you join! To receive a copy of the Zoom link, please reach out to the church office.



Church Camp 2023!

Check out the Welcome Table for information on Green Lake Bible Camp near Spicer or look online for information on Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of Summer Bible Camp for kids in kindergarten through grade 12. Please email rlc@rlcstjoe.com with your child's name, age and what camp they plan to attend for more information.



Treasurer Needed!

Do you have a finance background and a willingness to put your talents to use for a great cause? RLC could use your help! If you might be willing to learn the ropes or hear more about what our Treasurer position entails, please reach out to Rich Haselhorst or Pastor Sarah for more information.



RLC members David Krzenski and Carolyn Finley will be performing in a theatre production of Godspell! The show runs from Friday, April 14, 2023 – April 22, 2023 and is at the Colman Theater, Benedicta Art Center, CSB. For more information on dates, times, and ticket sales, visit <https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/godspell>

Upcoming Youth Sunday Events | 2023

Activities will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room

23 APR SARTELL BOWELING ALLEY
We will plan carpools and order pizzas



PHOTO SCAVENGERHUNT **21 MAY**
Pizza provided and prizes for the winning Team

Graduate Sunday Coming Soon!

On Sunday, May 21, we will celebrate our high school seniors during our time of worship. Families of soon-to-be-graduates... please watch your emails in the coming week for more information and for a form to complete and return to the church office.

*If you have a high school senior and do not receive an email by mid-April, please reach out to the church office or email Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com) or Chloe Terpstra (youthandfamily@rlcstjoe.com) so we can ensure your child is included in the celebration!





April Birthdays

Hannah	Erickson	4/2
Sheryl	Good	4/3
Ridell	Curtis	4/3
Jacob	Boulton	4/3
Lori	Linn	4/5
Jessica	Akkerman	4/5
Amelia	Curtis	4/5
Elsie	Kieke	4/7
Madison	Goebel	4/7
Hailey	Schwegel	4/10
Greg	Seelen	4/12
Linda	Larson	4/13
Sandi	Andreasen	4/16
Lovona	Bengtson	4/23
Holly	Blenker	4/24
Aidan	Schiltz	4/24
Shelbi	Keehr	4/24
Shelly	Rahn	4/30
Jacob	Frame	4/30
Otto	Kieke	4/30

For corrections or additions, please reach out to the church office so our records can be updated. Thank you!

Baby News!

Congratulations to our Office Manager, Bailey, and her husband, Michael, on the newest addition to their family!! Baby boy Finnley Calum was born on March 21. He joins his proud brother, Joseph. Welcome Baby Finnley!

