

THE MESSENGER

April 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church at Stone Bank
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Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid." That's where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It's so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He'd announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — phobos. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement — ekstasis. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means "being possessed." So we take a look at these women, and they've had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They've heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they're too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus' dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it's all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, ekstasis — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, phobos, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe — not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe.

And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means "possessed." And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times.

My favorite hymn is "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song." It's ELW 808. And the last verse goes like this: "I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey."

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

CHURCH NEWS



St. John's Celebrated 180 years of Being Together in Christ!

St. John's Lutheran Church at Stone Bank celebrated it's 180th Anniversary on Sunday, March 3rd. The celebration began with worship at 9:00 a.m. during which Rev. Paul Erickson, Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod gave the sermon.

The celebration continued with a special cake being served during the fellowship following the service.

A wonderful display of memorabilia from previous anniversary celebrations was set up by Judy Swanton. Many people enjoyed looking at the many pictures and articles over a couple of weeks in March.

On March 3, 1844 a group of Christians made a charter to form a church and it was heartwarming to be able to celebrate being able to continue that ministry for 180 years. This offers much enthusiasm as we keep the ministry to spread the Word of God through faith, branching out in hope, service, and love.

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR PERFORMS BACH CANTATA 112

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 21, DURING WORSHIP AT 9 AM

Featuring a string quartet, and some of the best of our local guest singers!

Don't miss our performance of Bach's soaring meditation on Psalm 23, perfectly complimenting the Good Shepherd Sunday gospel. Bach was Lutheran of course—one of our own!—and he wrote his cantatas, or song series, for performance in Lutheran worship.

Experience our lovely sanctuary filled with some of the finest music ever written performed by St. John's own choir along with talented Milwaukee-area guest musicians. Bring your family and invite your friends to this rare opportunity to worship along with Bach!

Council News

St. John's Council welcomes Shirley Kraft as the newest member at large. Shirley's insight and experience will be a great contribution to our council.



Listening Book Club

Our Listening Book Club's next meeting is on June 6 at 1:00 pm where we will discuss James McBride's book *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, an uplifting tale of kindness and community that follows the fortunes of a group of Jewish immigrants and African Americans who live together on Chicken Hill in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Pick up a copy of this popular book and join us on June 6.



Spring Cemetery Cleanup Day

Help us clean up the cemetery on April 13 at 9 am. April 20th will be the rain date. Bring your rakes, gloves and other gardening tools to help with cleanup. We will provide water and light snacks. Contact Grant Schuldt if you have any questions.

Lutherdale 80 Years of Ministry Celebration

80 years ago, a group of leaders sat on a log and prayed about creating a place for people to connect with God and nature, a place for people to learn about themselves and how God is at work in their lives ... They prayed Lutherdale into being.

On April 20, Lutherdale will celebrate 80 years in ministry. Join the celebration on the Lutherdale campus starting with a 1:00 pm worship service followed by food, fellowship, bingo, crafts, scavenger hunt, memory sharing and photo slide show. Please RSVP to 262-742-2352 or info@lutherdale.org if you are planning to attend.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY NEWS

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday April 21st -- Bach Cantata 112 concert during worship service at 9 am.

Sunday May 19th – Pentecost Sunday Worship Service at 9 am.

Sunday June 2nd – Riverside Worship Service at 9 am.



Easter 2024 at St. John's

The 2024 Lent and Easter season started early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. The following week we, once again, began a weekly soup and sandwich supper fellowship followed by a short meditative devotional service on Wednesday evenings. Attendance of the Wednesday evening activities increased weekly and offered fun supper conversation and thoughtful Lenten reflections.

Holy Week began on Palm Sunday with the distribution of palms, and a sanctuary procession while singing "All glory, Laud, and Honor" as has become a tradition at St. John's. The service included reading the Passion as the Gospel of the day.

Holy Week continued with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at new times this year. It was decided to move the service time up to 5 p.m. to allow for those who do not drive after dark to attend the services. The Maundy Thursday service included communion and stripping of the altar. The Good Friday Service included a procession of the cross.

Many thanks to all those soup, sandwich, and dessert providers for the soup and sandwich, and Clara and Lauren from the piano accompaniment for the devotional service. Thanks also to Judy Runt for reading and Nancy Kultz for assisting communion for the Maundy Thursday service, and to Oscar Kraft for reading and carrying the cross for the Good Friday service.

Easter Sunday in 2024 occurred after the deadline for this newsletter so news of the Easter celebration will be in May's newsletter.

ST. JOHN'S GOOD NEWS REPORT

Grace Edgar, middle daughter of Pastor Karen and Jim Edgar, was offered a tenured track position at the University of Kansas as an Assistant Professor in Musicology. Pastor Karen, Jim and their family rejoice in having Grace move back to the Midwest from the East coast.

Call or email the church office to let us know of any "Good News" to include in future newsletters.

WE APPRECIATE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

All who made soup, sandwiches and treats for the Midweek Lent worship services, a wonderful time of reflection and community

Nancy Barr and Shirley Kraft for serving as lay representatives at the Synod Assembly in June

Clara Birkel and Lauren Genthe for playing for our Midweek Lent Services

Everyone who contributed to the Easter celebration continental breakfast

Try A Yummy New Recipe - Judy Runt's Black Bean Soup

2 ½ lbs of black beans (I usually use canned black beans because they are softer.)
1 green pepper
1 large onion
1 tsp of garlic (I use the minced garlic in a jar.)
1-2 jars pimentos
¼ cup olive oil
⅓ cup of white vinegar (I usually put in a little bit more.)
1 tsp sugar
Salt and pepper to taste
Bay leaf
¼ cup white cooking wine

*If you decide to make more beans, I usually make between 3 and 4 lbs, increase the amount of green pepper and onion to two.

Place the green pepper, onion and garlic in a food processor or blender. Put the mixture over the beans in a deep pan, add the pimentos, olive oil, vinegar, salt and pepper, sugar, bay leaf (1 or 2) and cooking wine. Mix everything and let it cook on low for about 1-2 hours, stirring the black beans often to avoid them sticking to the bottom. Take a large spoon and mash the beans to the bottom of the pan so that the consistency of the beans gets thicker.

Make some white rice and, the combination is so good, a complete meal.





APRIL READINGS

April 7

Acts 4:32-35 - The believers' common life

Psalm 133 - How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

1 John 1:1--2:2 - Walking in the light

John 20:19-31 - Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

April 14

Acts 3:12-19 - Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus

Psalm 4 - The Lord does wonders for the faithful.

1 John 3:1-7 - The revealing of the children of God

Luke 24:36b-48 - Eating with the risen Christ

April 21

Acts 4:5-12 - Salvation in the name of Jesus

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

1 John 3:16-24 - Love in truth and action

John 10:11-18 - Christ the shepherd

April 28

Acts 8:26-40 - Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

Psalm 22:25-31 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

1 John 4:7-21 - God's love perfected in love for one another

John 15:1-8 - Christ the vine



April 3 – Vera Novobielski
April 8 – Renee Novobielski
April 15 – Carly (Kuhtz) Nuehring
April 15 – Debbie Seitz
April 16 – Zander Big Mountain
April 16 – Debbie Hampton
April 23 – Shannon Barr
April 27 – Gail Jacobsen
April 29 – Liam Fleming



St. John's Council

President: Judy Runt

Vice President: Nancy Barr

Council Members at Large: Kris Kaptain and Shirley Kraft

Financial Secretary: Judy Swanton

Acting Treasurer: Rachel Frederick

St. John's Music Program

Music Minister: Jim Edgar

Pianist: Lauren Genthe

Choir: Nancy Barr, Oscar Kraft, Shirley Kraft, Bennett Shebesta, Judy Runt

Worship Assistants

Alan Abeld, Carol Baird, Phil Baird, Nancy Barr, John Baumann, Julie Bohen, Jim Edgar, Ann Greenseth, Kris Kaptain, Oscar Kraft, Shirley Kraft, Julie Kuhtz, Nancy Kuhtz, Megan Rollefson, Deb Runt, Judy Runt, Grant Schuldt, Judy Swanton, Cynthia Tobolt

Altar Ministry

Nancy Barr, Julie Bohen, Kris Kaptain, Brigitte Katz, Julie Kuhtz, Nancy Kuhtz, Anita Olson, Judy Runt