

Following Faith

April Newsletter 2024

**“I am the vine;
you are the
branches”**



Friends of Faith,

Somebody told somebody!

Like a secret, or like church gossip! :)

But I'm talking about our Easter story. "Somebody told somebody" is on my mind this Holy Week and as we enter Eastertide.

Someone loved to tell the story and somebody told somebody.

And the story changed. It didn't stay one way. It was alive and active.

Here's what I mean: this year, at Easter, we read Mark's gospel story. And Mark's gospel can be peculiar, maybe especially the story of Jesus resurrected. Because here come the women with spices to anoint his body, and what they discover sends them running from the tomb *"for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."*

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Faith Lutheran Church

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

See, Mark's story ends here, with this strange, open-ended narrative. Because Well, because of course somebody said something. They had to. Why else are all of us here?!

Somebody told somebody!
And thank God they did.

Now, I don't think Mark gets it wrong or is trying to deceive us. I think he's painting a picture for the upside-down nature of this whole scene. The world of these faithful women, just going to anoint their dear friend's body—their world was now turned upside-down and it's all fear and amazement and not telling anyone. I'm sure they couldn't find the words, even!

Until they could.

Somebody told somebody!
And thank God they did.

That's a pattern for new life, by the way. Somebody says something. In the scriptures, God creates by God's spoken word — then life. Book one, chapter one of the whole thing says, "Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." God said something and there was something.

And in the instance of someone being raised from the dead (they would die again, but for a while Lazarus was back to life)—in that instance God in Jesus speaks, speaks to death and the darkness of his friend's tomb, "Lazarus, come forth," and it happens. God said something and there was something.

And on and on, and so it is today. The good news wakes us up and revives us. When we share the story with someone, when somebody tells somebody, new life happens with us—in our hearts, in our families, in our society and world. God's Word is active and makes new life here and now! Especially when we come together and share the words our savior gave to us. We share "welcome," we share "peace," we share "the body of Christ given for you."

So this Easter passage in Mark doesn't tell us who or why or how, but we surely know. Somebody said something. And new life began to spread. About the resurrection, somebody told somebody!

May it be so for you, and for us. May you hear Christ speak the Word of life again to you this Easter. Listen for the songs, listen to folks' testimony, listen for the joy and wonder and the activity of the Spirit.

And share that Word too. May God move us to tell somebody.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

We know because somebody told somebody.
†Pastor Shaun O'Reilly

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Join us this Easter season! It is a "week of weeks," seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the Gospel of John. Our theme in Eastertide will draw from Christ's stunning teaching:

I am the vine, you are the Branches.

So, we'll wonder and discover: what kind of branches are we, connected to this vine?

People of Easter are Branches!

April 7th - 2nd Sunday of Easter **Branches of Peace**

Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.



April 14th - 3rd Sunday of Easter **Branches of Presence**



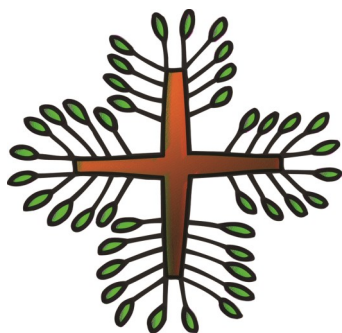
Jesus shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. And it's in this flesh and bone activity that Christ relates what kind of witnesses disciples are to be. What you and I are to be! We are the body too: taken, blessed, broken, given.

April 21st - 4th Sunday of Easter **Branches of Provision**

Christ is the Good Shepherd, and we are the sheep of God's pasture. What does it mean to be in this fold? How are we loved and tended after? What are we being raised up to be for the world but shelter and support? *[The Faith Lutheran Chancel Choir sings this day!](#)*



April 28th - 5th Sunday of Easter **Branches of Produce**



This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is our guiding image of Easter this year—Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings family of Faith,

Your new council met in March for a mini retreat at the church. We had a time for team/leadership building. We discussed goals for the coming year. Several ideas were brought forth. We will be working on these and asking for help from you in the planning. Watch your emails, read your bulletin announcements and our monthly newsletter for information as we progress.



If you would like information or have ideas, please contact us and share your thoughts. We have several teams that need volunteers to help with the care of our church. Talk to them, share your time/talent helping. We are all stewards of God's house and property. We must care for it as we care for our own. We are responsible for the power, heat, and maintenance just like our own home.

- ~In the last 3 years, you helped financially with painting, roofing, and a new parking lot.
- ~You gave of your time to help with upkeep on work days.
- ~Your hands helped with events, baking, cooking, set up, and clean up.
- ~Your voices sing God's praises.
- ~Your prayers are raised for others.
- ~Your service comes from your heart. You are appreciated and loved.
- ~Thank you all for your help and support.

We are family.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonja Dresbach, Council President

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2024 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Sonja Dresbach

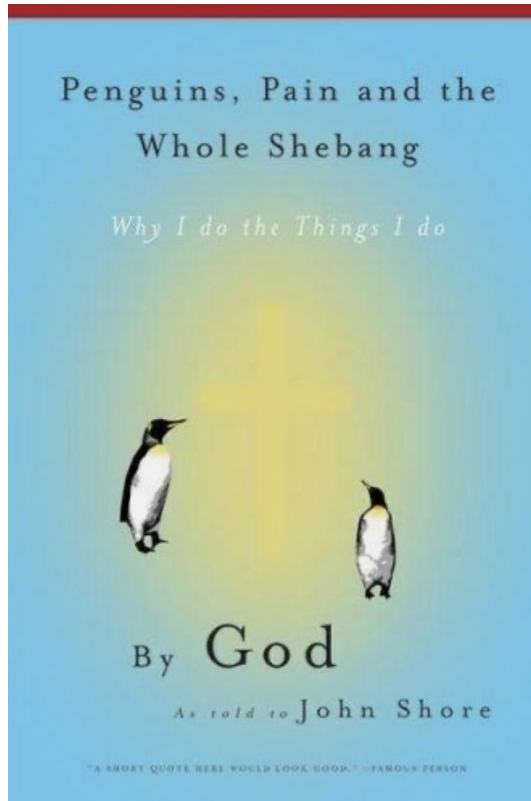
Vice President: Eric Weldon

Secretary: Benjamin Pesis

Treasurer: LindaLu Miller

Members at Large: Jean Carter, Matthew Rhiley,
Amy Zimmerman, and Pr. Shaun O'Reilly

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES



ADULT FORUM

At 11am on Sundays, join us for learning and discussion following worship. It's our Adult Forum.

For April we will be exploring the easily approachable, and very funny book,

Penguins, Pain, and the Whole Shebang

This is an engaging way into discussions about God and the world, our biggest questions and wonderings, and our journey to gratefulness for God's calling to us!

You can shop and find the book*, or see Pr. Shaun and reserve a copy through him.

**You can join the forum without the book!
Just come along!*

SATURDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

CLASSES TO RESUME SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH!

Topic: "Why the Church Year?"

Join us for fun & learning, questions, wonderings, and of course, treats!
All are welcome and encouraged! Led by Stan Pesis and Elizabeth King.

SATURDAY'S @ 1PM



OUTREACH

Here's our project for April:

Our church needs to assemble "Blessing Bags" to give to needy folks who come to our building looking for assistance. And, we've noticed in the past that these Bags are helpful for us to have in our cars to hand out at the right time too. So we will collect items and give you bags to have and hand out as well. This is a call for supplies and for you to join our organized assembly day.

Can you help to donate the following items?



Non-perishable food items (i.e. trail mix, granola bars, peanuts, apple sauce), hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, hand sanitizer, combs/brushes), bottled water, socks, bandaids, and/or lip balm

Please bring these items to the collection box at the backdoor of the Narthex.

Join us to Assemble: **Sunday, April 21st, 11:30am.** After the "It's Still Easter Egg Hunt" for our kids! We'll work in the fellowship room.



SHARED HARVEST

For the Month of April we need 28 Boxes **Cold Cereal**, 42 Cans of **Canned Fruit**, 42 Cans of **Chicken Noodle Soup**, 42 Cans of **Tuna**, and **Shampoo** in unlimited quantities. Packing will be on **Sun, April 28th, 1pm @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Reno.**

SHARING WITH EACH OTHER

Recipes Wanted!

Since Faith Lutheran is blessed with so many delicious treats and dishes for potlucks or refreshments at church, the Fellowship committee would love to publish a cookbook which contains your tasty and delightful recipes. We are asking congregants to participate by providing recipes for your favorite dishes & desserts so a special Faith Lutheran Church cookbook can be prepared. Please submit your recipes to Amy Zimmerman via the email below.



If you wish to include a little 'back story' with your recipe, ex., *"This dish was often served by the Ladies Aid at my Lutheran Church in northern Minnesota when I was a kid..."* that would be fun, too. We would like your recipes by **April 30, 2024.**

Contact Amy at **amyfzimmerman818@gmail.com** if you have additional questions.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Join us for our

It's Still Easter Egg Hunt!

*Sunday, April 21st
Following worship, 11am*

**Tell your friends and family,
and make plans to join us.
Because —> It's still Easter!**

And Save the Date!

BIBLE STUDY

Join us Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30p-2:30p, to read and discuss the Bible scripture for the following Sunday. This helps us prepare for the next Sunday's Service.

Visit our website at faithlutheranreno.org to join Zoom

- via phone or video -

Dial: 1 669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 97416357933 Password: 303457

April Schedule

- ◆ **Apr 02/** for 04/07: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
- ◆ **Apr 09/** for 04/14: Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
- ◆ **Apr 16/** for 04/21: Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
- ◆ **Apr 23/** for 04/28: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
- ◆ **Apr 30/** for 05/05: Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

For more information contact the office at office@faithlutheranreno.org or call 775.747-3246

Prayer Requests

Please send any prayer requests to
the prayer team at:

prayers@faithlutheranreno.org

Online Giving

For your convenience we offer an
online option at our website:

faithlutheranreno.org

Click on "Support Faith" at the top right
of the page.

April 2024

Faith Lutheran Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|-----|--|
| | 1 EASTER MONDAY APRIL FOOLS' DAY | 2 | 3 12 NOON Lunch Bunch | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place 2 Easter | 8 | 9 1:30pm Bible Study | 10 12pm Finance Mtng | 11 5:30 PM Communication Meeting | 12 | 13 10am Worship Team |
| 14 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place 11am Fellowship Mtng 3 Easter | 15 6pm Council Mtng TAX DAY! | 16 1:30pm Bible Study 11:45a NARFE | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:30am Worship 11AM IT'S STILL EASTER EGG HUNT! 11:30AM BLESSING BAG ASSEMBLY 4 Easter | 22 | 23 1:30pm Bible Study | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 1PM FAITH FORMATION CLASSES RESUME! |
| 28 9:30am Worship 11am Adult Forum 11am Kids Place 5 Easter | 29 | 30 1:30pm Bible Study | <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Weekly Group Meetings in the FLC Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ACA; Mondays at 5:30pm ◆ WhipStirs 4-H; 2nd Wednesday at 6:30pm ◆ Scouts; Thursdays at 7:00pm </div> | | | |
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