

Following Faith

April Newsletter 2025

Friends of Faith,

This month we'll enter Holy Week and come out on the other side in Eastertide. For Lent we've had on our "welcome board" as you enter the building (Narthex): **"Renewed by the Passion of Jesus."** And there is nowhere else for us to go now but there.

Jesus, passionate and full of mercy, has welcomed us into his trek. Like prodigal children, he has given us rings of celebration! And, still, he says to us all: "Come, follow me."

We join his journey. We join his passion. We see what happens to the Body of Christ — the body we are, and are always becoming.



The **RENEWAL** of picking up our crosses and loving like Jesus is that He is always the One loving us into the life of eternity. And there's no trading that.

I invite you to ponder this Lent and Easter what it looks like to be people Renewed by Jesus' passion. Think with Paul. In the letter to the Corinthians he wrote, **"Jesus was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty we might become rich"** (2:8:9). Here, like we do again and again, we encounter a gospel that seems hell-bent on saving the poor, the discarded, the marginalized, and those rejected. So, Paul invites followers to both preach the good news to all who have been previously rejected, and to also become like the rejected themselves! We "become all things to all people," he writes, because the good news is renewal for ones who need it. The good news is that Mercy has triumphed and the ones sent away are called home.

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In God’s saving love, we are renewed for ministry—to meet the hurting where they are and to join them there, even poverty and despair because Jesus became these very things to Renew the world.

Paul preaches it. Peter encourages us on it too! On Easter Sunday we’ll read a speech of Peter’s from the book of Acts: *“You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did!”* - Acts 10:36-39

“Preaching peace by Jesus Christ” is the renewal of our faith and lives. Where we have sown discord, we are renewed for Peace. Where the world has brought hurt and rejection, we are renewed to be bringers Peace. Where people yell and argue and curse one another, we are renewed to faithfully pray for Peace. Where the church has communicated exclusion, we are renewed to welcome others, peaching peace by Jesus Christ.

And one last gift! We are **renewed together!**

Thus renewed, I can say to you now: Peace be with you this Holy Week and Easter
†Pastor Shaun O’Reilly



2025 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Sonja Dresbach	Vice President: Matthew Rhiley
Secretary: Benjamin Pesis	Treasurer: Erica Wilfrid
Members at Large: Eric Weldon, Sharon Scagliotti, & Pr. Shaun O’Reilly	

2025 TEAMS & LEADERS

Communications: Amy Zimmerman	Fellowship: Eileen Way
Finance: Erica Wilfrid	Property: Eric Weldon
Outreach/Social Action: Judi Hein	Stewardship:
Worship and Music: Sharon Scagliotti	Personnel: Linda Zimmerman

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

April 6th - 5th Sunday in Lent

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you and me!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.



Choir rehearses at 11am. No Adult Forum today. Kids' Place at 10:50am.*

****Choir rehearsals: Sunday, 04/06 @ 11am-12pm,***

Tuesday, 04/08 @ 5:15pm-6:30pm, and Sunday, 04/13 @ 8:30am



April 13th - Palm/Passion Sunday

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, especially through the gospel of Luke. Each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love. Our choir and Olivia and Heinz lead us into this story through music and readings!



April 17th - Maundy Thursday, 7pm

We gather for worship including Holy Communion and Washing of Hands. "Maundy" is related to our word for "mandate" or "command," for tonight our readings come from Jesus' last supper and his command: "As I have loved you, love one another."

IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

April 18 – Good Friday in Midnight Blues, 7pm

We gather for a service of Tenebrae, the growing darkness. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadow." Our readings trace the steps of Jesus' passion from John's gospel, we extinguish candles, approaching the darkness, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer. Todd Mauldin preaches and plays the blues.



April 19 – Vigil of Easter, 6pm

We gather on this night of Salvation! In this service we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continually brings life out of death. We will celebrate affirmation of baptisms -- all as we travel from dark to light, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. "Christ has arisen and we shall arise!"



April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Easter Brunch! 8am

9:30am - Easter Worship through the new life of Christ! We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. Luke highlights the role of the community: the group of women, more than the named three; the eleven and the rest; and Peter.

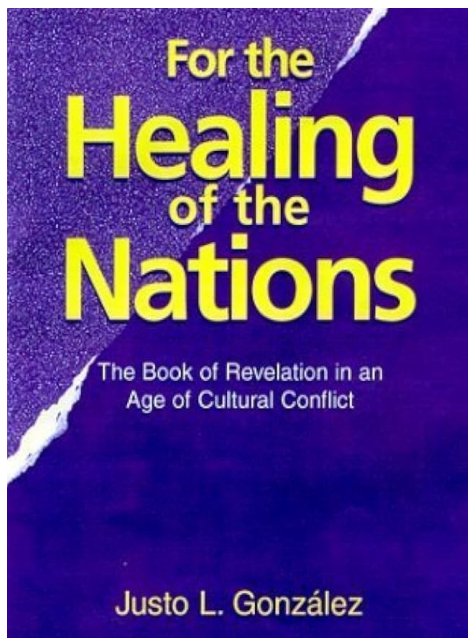
This gospel does not attempt to describe the resurrection itself, but presents us with an article of faith in this story of stories!



April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

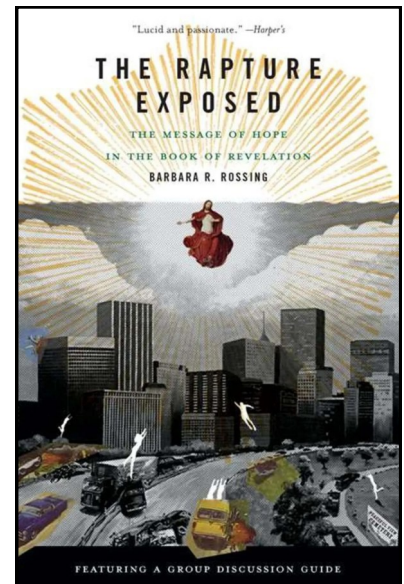
In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

FAITH FORMATION



Our Sunday, 11am, Adult Forum is off now for Holy Week and Easter but returns for the Easter Season.

So, beginning on Sunday, April 27th, we will follow themes from the lectionary (the readings in worship) as they continually use parts of the book of the gospel of John as well as Revelation. We will put these texts in conversation with each other as we continue to look at themes of **power, empire, culture, and communication in early Christianity.**



As the Sunday sermons might mostly focus on the gospel, this will be our chance to put the other readings into conversation with the themes of Empire from the book of John. So, especially these two books from studies on Revelation will come to bear: Justo González's book, "For the Healing of the Nations: The Book of Revelation in an Age of Cultural Conflict", as well as Barbara Rossing's, "The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation".

All are welcome on Sunday April 27th, and into the month of May, to discuss how the lived culture of early Christianity is meaningful for the freedom and grace of Christians today.

It's historical and applicable, so join on in! - †Pr Shaun

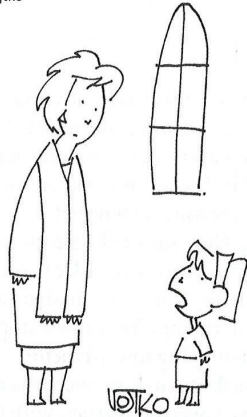


Sundays, 10:50am - 11:50am

FAITH COMMUNITY

LIGHT SIDE

Cartoons: Bob Vojtko



"I've read almost all of the Easter Scriptures.
When does the Easter Bunny show up?"



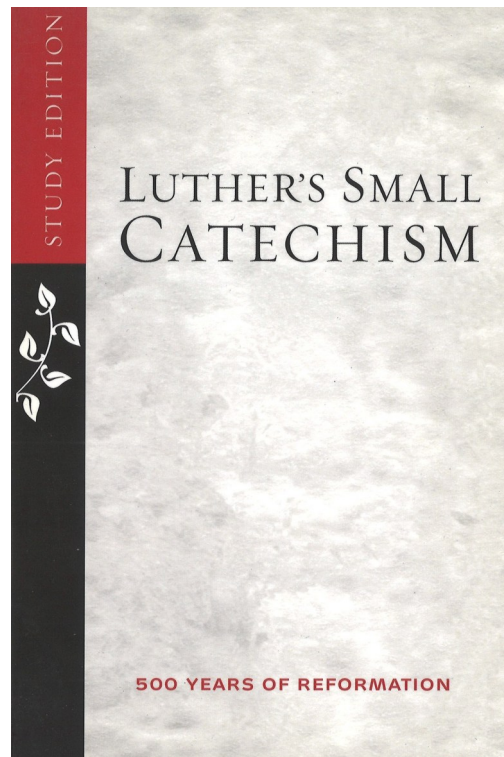
"For our Easter service offering, we received \$256.25,
12 chocolate eggs and a marshmallow chick."

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES & RESOURCES • LIVINGLUTHERAN.ORG

-Humor submitted by Linda Zimmerman

PR STAN'S SATURDAY THEOLOGY CLASS RETURNS IN MAY!

Join us then, Saturdays at 1pm.
We begin talking through the
history and ideas of
the Lutheran Catechism.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE/KITCHEN UPDATE!

The kitchen remodel is nearly finished. The room has been painted by our dedicated volunteers, the flooring and countertops were installed by Pacific Stone, electrical updates and new lighting have been installed. In addition we have added a new water heater and updated plumbing fixtures. The cabinets received a good cleaning and restoration, and the appliances are on their way! The kitchen will be functional and ready for use for our Easter Breakfast! There may be some touch ups to complete after that but everything is moving forward. Many thanks to all of the folks who have volunteered to help with this effort! Many hands make light work.

-Eric Weldon, Property Chair



NEW COUNTER TOPS, FLOORS, SINKS & FAUCETS!



READY TO INSTALL THE NEW, GAS OPERATED, CHEF QUALITY STOVE!



CHECK OUT THAT 8 SOCKET POWER STRIP!



FANCY FAUCETS ON AN EXTRA LARGE SINGLE BASIN AND THE DOUBLE BASIN W/DISPOSAL!

OUTREACH

Congregation,

In April our hearts of service and outreach can turn to our international siblings. We are sending \$1,000 of your giving to support international connection now (see below). Your outreach team has a calendar of needs/communications; this month we want to share with you ways to partner with our **Lutheran Church in El Salvador**.

Here is the news from the church:

Their Bishop Emeritus Medardo Gomez (80 years old) passed away on March 27th from complications of an illness. He was the first Lutheran Bishop of El Salvador and served 38 years. God bless him!

His successor is Bishop Guadalupe Cortez, a very popular woman with the people; she received over 50% of the votes on the 1st ballot. Bishop Cortez will be visiting the Sierra Pacific Synod October 17th-19th by attending the Women's 16th Biennial Convention in Citrus Heights, CA.

(More information to come as plans are firmed up).



BISHOP GUADALUPE CORTEZ

The Lutheran Church in El Salvador has 50 churches and 30 pastors. Half of the clergy are female, and they have 60 new people who are either a deacon or deaconess. Most pastors in El Salvador do not make a salary and must have other work to live. So, participating in fundraisers to bring in support for worship materials is always an option for ELCA congregations.

And here are ongoing projects that support the church:



1. Children and School

Lutherans from the ELCA sponsor children to attend the Collegiate Lutherano School, Preschool through 9th Grade, in Apopa, El Salvador.

The cost to sponsor a child's schooling for a year is \$450.00. It works by selecting a student in need that you would like to sponsor and then the student, principal, and teachers begin communications back to you.

Currently they have 41 children in the program, with some still waiting for sponsorship. The school's goal is to lay a solid foundation for learning— not only the required academic courses but— to include English as a second language, computer classes, and the arts. Recent donations from the Sierra Pacific Synod have purchased flutes, guitars, and a keyboard for their music classes. Any fundraising we do on their behalf is helpful!



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OUTREACH

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****Your Faith Lutheran Outreach Team has designated \$1,000 of gifts to go to sponsoring two children for school. This comes from the Outreach Fund that is always 1.5% of our general giving. You can add gifts by either giving to the general fund or you can designate a whole amount to go to Outreach by noting that and telling our finance team! ****

2. Here's another story from ELCA folks who have worked with the church:

*"We make **stoles for the pastors, deacon and deaconess.** We raise money to buy everything needed to make kits. We then let the people know when we will be coming to El Salvador and they come to the Bishop's Compound for three day to hand make each stole. All the stoles are then taken to the Resurrection Church in San Salvador and Blessed by the Bishop. The person who made the stole places it on the pastor. Beautiful sight."* - Sue Hertless



3. **Letters of Encouragement and Daily Prayers** for the People

We could begin communications with siblings there to offer encouragement and prayers over emails. Finally, on November 10th-14th, there is a gathering for all who work with the Lutheran Synod in El Salvador and organizers from our Synod would love to see any folks from Faith attend this gathering. The purpose is to outline where El Salvador wants to focus their work and then we discuss how we can support the work.

In Celebration to the church worldwide,
Your Outreach Team

SHARED HARVEST

We are looking for someone to partner with Tom Landis to assist with the Shared Harvest ministry. Ask Tom or Judi Hein for more information.



For April we need **28 boxes of Cold Cereal, 42 cans of Canned Fruit, 42 cans of Chicken Noodle Soup, 42 cans of Tuna, and shampoo** in unlimited quantities. Packing is April 17th, 1pm @ Good Shepherd, Reno.



FAITH COMMUNITY

EASTER BREAKFAST

Easter Sunday, 8am

Provided by your Fellowship Team

You are welcome to contribute additional juices, sweet pastries or desserts!

Contact Eileen Way for more information.

helenflc@hotmail.com or 775.560.3248



Save the date! May 3rd **TACO BINGO NIGHT!**



Reminder! Lunch Bunch will be held the first Wednesday of May, 05/07, Noon. It's a potluck!



THE LUNCH BUNCH

Faith Lutheran Church
2025 Schedule

January 1 **No Lunch Bunch**

February 5

March 5 Ash Wednesday **No Lunch Bunch**

April 2 soup Supper **No Lunch Bunch**

May 7

June 4 BBQ

July & August **No Lunch Bunch**

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3

FAITH IN ACTION

Debbie Hansen thanks the congregation for all of the prayers, cards, and blessings for David. She truly appreciates the support for her, and her family, at this difficult time.

David T. Hansen



09/07/46 – 03/13/25

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. Study schedules may be found on the table in the Narthex.

Everyone is welcome!

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 2025

1st - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

2nd - Wednesday, **1:30-3pm Support Group w/Pr Ruth**

●**5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 pm Prayer Svc, 6:30pm THE WAY**

3rd - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

4th - Friday

5th - Saturday

6th - Sunday, **LENT** 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, **11am-12pm, Choir Rehearsal**

7th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

8th - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study, 5:15-6:30pm, Choir Rehearsal**

9th - Wednesday, **12 Noon LUNCH BUNCH, 12 Noon FINANCE MTNG**

●**5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00 pm Prayer Svc, 6:30pm THE WAY**

10th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

11th - Friday

12th - Saturday, **10am WORSHIP TEAM MTNG**

13th - Sunday, **8:30am, Choir Rehearsal**, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place,

-DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER SPRING FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR-

14th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

15th - Tuesday, **11am NARFE Luncheon, 1:30pm Bible Study** *****TAX DAY*****

16th - Wednesday, **1:30-3pm Support Group w/Pr Ruth**

17th - Thursday, ● **7pm, MAUNDY THURSDAY**

18th - Friday, ● **7pm, GOOD FRIDAY**

19th - Saturday, ● **6pm, EASTER VIGIL**

20th - Sunday, **EASTER, 8am Easter Breakfast**, 9:30am WORSHIP

21st - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng, **6pm Council Meeting**

22nd - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

23rd - Wednesday

24th - Thursday, 7pm Scouts

25th - Friday

26th - Saturday

27th - Sunday, 9:30am WORSHIP, 10:50am Kids' Place, 11am Adult Forum (*Returns*)

28th - Monday, 5:30pm ACA Mtng

29th - Tuesday, **1:30pm Bible Study**

30th - Wednesday

