

## The Mustard Seed

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

# Christ is Risen!

# He is Risen Indeed!

The empty tomb of Easter is culmination of our journey through Lent and Holy Week and the high point of our year.

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

The promise **is** fulfilled!

New life for Jesus through resurrection and the promise of resurrection and new life for each of us provides hope as we continue to walk together through life.

Gathering regularly for Worship on Sunday we have a great time being reminded of the promise fulfilled, the promise of eternal life. It is a joyous experience to see the face of Jesus in the other worshipers and in turn being the face of Jesus for them.

Do your church family, and yourself, a favor by committing to regular Sunday Worship. Make it a habit. Remember we gather at Bethany **every** Sunday morning at 9:30.

See you Sunday.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor John



## HELPERS FOR APRIL 2019

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

April 7  
 (Servers) Council  
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Velma Jones  
April 14 - Palm Sunday  
 (Servers) Council  
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Judy Lundberg  
April 21 - Easter  
 (Servers) Council  
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Ed & Shirley Stukey  
April 28  
 (Servers) Council  
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Dennis DeFrang  
May 5  
 (Servers) Council  
 (Set-up/ Clean-up) Ray & Sandy Kephart

### WORSHIP HOSTS

April 7  
 Jim & Joani Ellingson & Judy Waytashek  
April 14 - Palm Sunday  
 Bruce & Dixie Peterson & Marian Veaaesen  
April 21 - Easter  
 Arden & Patti Virnig & Chuck Anderson  
April 28  
 Ray & Sandy Kephart & Norma Thompson  
May 5  
 Gordy & Maverine Anderson & Judy Waytashek

### OFFERING COUNTERS

April 7  
 Ed Stukey & Kaye Mickus  
April 14 - Palm Sunday  
 Bruce Peterson & Marian Veaaesen  
April 21 - Easter  
 Sandy Kephart & Charleen Dahlgren  
April 28  
 Kaye Mickus & Marian Veaaesen  
May 5  
 Bruce Peterson & Ed Stukey

### LECTORS

April 7  
 Joani Ellingson  
April 14 - Palm Sunday  
 Judy Waytashek  
April 21 - Easter  
 Dixie Peterson  
April 28  
 Sandy Kephart  
May 5  
 Patti Hook

### PIANISTS

April 7 Barb  
April 14 - Palm Sunday Joan  
April 21 - Easter Joan  
April 28 Barb  
May 5 Barb

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

April 7  
April 14  
April 21 Hillman  
April 28 Spring Brunch  
May 6

If you can help out in providing treats for fellowship after worship, please call the church office to be put on the list. **THANK YOU!**

**NEEDED:** We are in need of offering counters. If you can help with this on an occasional Sunday morning following worship, please let Darcy know. **THANK YOU!**

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



#### APRIL

April 9th Gene McKenzie's Birthday  
April 9th Wayne & Kim Kucera's Anniversary  
April 13th Jack Hales Birthday  
April 15th Aliste Anderson's Birthday  
April 16th Gerald & Judy Vogtlin's Anniversary  
April 24th Jim Jones' Birthday  
April 24th Helen Vanderpoel's Birthday

### HOMEBOUND OR RELOCATED?

If a family member or friend has become homebound or has been moved into Assisted Living or the Nursing Home, please share that information with the church office. **THANK YOU!!**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday through Thursday 9am-3pm**

Pastor John will be in the office on Tuesdays. Please stop in or call for an appointment.  
 Pastor John's phone: 320-676-3130

**DEADLINE** for the May 2019 Mustard Seed will be **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, April 21st.  
 Please have all items in to Darcy by this date. Thank You!

**March Council meeting****3-19-2019**

Members present: D. DeFrang, P. Hook, V. Jones, D. Peterson and Pastor John.

Members absent: N. Holen, R. Kephart, and P. Olson.

Consent Agenda was approved after the following discussion. Pastor John gave additional information in his pastor report. He handed out a legal checklist that he received at a synod meeting. The council will need to review the checklist. The synod has received Bethany's site profile and now the council needs to meet with Brenda Tibbets and/or Amy Odgren to discuss some of Bethany's future plans for its ministry. The council also plans to celebrate Aiden Anderson's affirmation of baptism during a church service at Bethany.

Old Business: none

New Business: A. Nuts and Bolts recap- Due to scheduling conflicts council members were not able to attend this synod conference. B. Lamoreaux Fund- There are 2 members on the Lamoreaux committee and a third member is needed. Velma will announce this committee opportunity at church on Sunday, March 24. Several Lamoreaux applications have been received. C. Synod Assembly Delegates- Ray and Sandy Kephart will not be able to represent Bethany at the synod assembly this spring. The synod assemble is the first weekend in May in Duluth. The council will announce this service opportunity at church on Sunday, March 24.

Project Updates: A. Harvest of the Earth Meal- Bethany will host the Harvest of the Earth meal on Wednesday, April 17 at Holy Cross church. Volunteers are needed to help with the meal. B. Plowing the church parking lot- The council discussed some water issues due to melting snow in the parking lot. C. Norma Holen resignation and recognition- Norma has resigned from the council and is moving to Arkansas at the end of March. The council plans on having ice cream sundaes after church on Sunday, March 24 as a blessing for Norma as she begins her next adventure.

Next month's council meeting will be Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned,

Dixie Peterson, council secretary



**JOIN US FOR POTLUCK SPRING BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH!  
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE DOOR IN THE NARTHEX.**

## GROUPS, MEETINGS, ETC.

**Prayer Shawl** - Tuesday, April 9th at 4pm

**Quilting** - April 16th from 9am-3pm.

**SENIOR COMPANIONS** Meet at Bethany on the second Tuesday of each month from 9-11:30am.

Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm.**

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **HARVEST OF THE EARTH DINNER**

Bethany will be hosting the Harvest of the Earth Dinner at Holy Cross on **Wednesday, April 17th.**

We need volunteers to prepare, serve and clean-up. We also need bars/ cookies.

Sign-up sheet is on the door. **THANK YOU!!**

### **SPRING BRUNCH**

We will be having a Spring Brunch after worship on Sunday, April 28th.

There is a sign-up sheet on the door in the Narthex. **PLEASE JOIN US!!**

### **BETHANY NEEDS**

We have a “**Bethany Needs**” list posted on the door in the Narthex.

There are items listed that Bethany needs (ex. coffee, coffee cups, napkins, etc.)

If you would like to purchase an item, please cross it off the list or let Darcy know. **THANK YOU!!**

### **Little Free PANTRY!**

Bring canned & dry foods & hygiene products whenever you can for our little free pantry.

For more information about Little Free Pantries visit [littlefreepantry.org](http://littlefreepantry.org). **OUR LITTLE FREE PANTRY**

**CURRENTLY NEEDS DONATIONS OF DRY GOODS OR HYGEINE PRODUCTS.**

### **Little Free LIBRARY!**

We are always collecting books for our little free library! We are in need of infant/ toddler/ preschool books and also teen books.

We do not need any adult books at this time. Thank you for donating!

### **NE SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

We need volunteers to attend the NE Synod Assembly May 3-5 at the Duluth Convention Center.

Let Darcy know if you are interested.

### **MLHS HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

MLHS Hospice is looking for volunteers to sit with and visit hospice patients. No personal care giving, just visiting and spending time with them is needed. Call Carol at 320-733-0380 if you're interested.

**ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, MAY 19th IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.  
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.**

### **RUBY'S PANTRY**

Food Distribution Program. Everyone who gets hungry qualifies! You receive an abundance of grocery items for a \$20 donation. Bring your own baskets or boxes for food. Located at the Lions Community Center, Onamia beginning

**at 10:30 am the FIRST Monday of the month. Registration begins at 10am.**

**Next three dates will be April 1st, May 6th & June 3rd**

**THANK YOU... to those who are giving through Thrivent Dollars!! Much appreciation!**

## AN EASTER STORY

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises.

At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents to come to St. Theresa's for a consultation. As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy!"

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises.

Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that Spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine!"

Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents! Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

This is a true story, the names have been changed for the sake of privacy.

# APRIL 2019

| Sun  | Mon                             | Tue                      | Wed   | Thu                            | Fri | Sat                                     |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----|---|
|  | 1<br>10:30am -<br>RUBY'S PANTRY | 2                        | 3   | 4<br>5pm - Bible study at UMC  | 5   | 6<br>8:30am - Men's<br>Breakfast at UMC |
| 7<br>9:30am<br>Holy Communion<br>S.S. following the Gospel                           | 8                               | 9                        | 10  | 11                             | 12  | 13                                      |
| 14<br>PALM SUNDY<br>9:30am<br>Holy Communion<br>S.S. following the Gospel            | 15                              | 16<br>9am-3pm - Quilting | 17<br>6pm-Harvest of the<br>Earth Dinner at<br>Holy Cross | 18<br>5pm - Bible study at UMC | 19  | 20                                      |
| 21<br>EASTER SUNDY<br>9:30am<br>Holy Communion<br>EASTER BRUNCH<br>FOLLOWING WORSHIP | 22                              | 23                       | 24  | 25                             | 26  | 27                                      |
| 28<br>9:30am<br>Holy Communion<br>S.S. following the Gospel                          | 29                              | 30                       | May 1   |                                |     |   |

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**500 LINDQUIST ST.**  
**ONAMIA, MN 56359**

**320-532-3366**

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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**ONAMIA, MN**  
**PERMIT NO. 13**

**Council Members:**

**President - Pam Olson**  
**Vice President - Velma Jones**  
**Secretary - Dixie Peterson**  
**Treasurer - Ray Kephart**  
**Patti Hook - Dennis DeFrang**

**Music Coordinator - Susan Bracken**  
**Administrative Assistant - Darcy DeBoer**

**RETURN SERVICE**  
**REQUESTED**

Address:

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - PALM SUNDAY**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - EASTER**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**EASTER BRUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**BRUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**SPRING BRUNCH**

We will be having a Spring Brunch after worship on Sunday, April 28th. There is a sign-up sheet on the door in the Narthex. **PLEASE JOIN US!!**

**ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, MAY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**  
**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND.**