

# April Newsletter 2011



***“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”***

**Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Port Hudson**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**  
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## **From the Pastor's Desk:**

### **What Happened?**

**Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.**

#### **Luke 24:12**

What happened? As Peter peered into the open tomb, he was plagued by the question. Certainly he had plenty of evidence. He heard the women's testimony (Luke 24:9-11). He went past the stone that covered the opening. He saw the linen strips that covered Jesus' body. He could even recall the words Jesus had spoken previously: "On the third day he will rise again" (Luke 18:21-33). In spite of the evidence, Peter left the tomb wondering.

What happened? I may struggle with the same question. On Easter Sunday I may have heard about the open tomb. I may have been led past the stone that guarded the opening. I may have even been shown the linens, and heard the message of the women and the angels proclaiming that he is not here. Still, the question persists.

What happened? I need an answer, and Jesus is the only one who can help. I could try to rely on other resources, but none will answer the question. None will give me the peace of mind I desperately need. None will offer me any lasting assurance.

Jesus tells me what happened. Throughout his ministry, Jesus always pointed to his death and resurrection. These were the culmination of his God-appointed work. When Jesus died and rose from the dead, he proclaimed that every promise God made was kept. He also proclaimed that my rescue was secure.

Jesus' resurrection is my guarantee that I am forgiven. Jesus' resurrection is my guarantee that I am at peace with God. Jesus' resurrection is also my guarantee of a new life. Because Jesus lives, I can live with confidence. Satan's tyranny is defeated. Sin's control is overcome. Death's terror is silenced. Today, and every day, I can live with a resurrection joy. In addition, I can live every day with Jesus' personal promise, "because I live you also will live" (John 14:19). I know the grave is not the end. Just as Jesus broke free from the grip of death, so will I. On that day I will live with him forever.

So, what happened on Easter day? I might be tempted to wonder about the resurrection, but my doubts are answered in Jesus. He lives. The tomb is empty. New life and heaven are mine.

**Prayer:**

**He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears.**

**He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.**

**Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: “I know that my Redeemer lives.”**

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### **Easter Breakfast**

*The Education Committee and Thrivent will host an Easter Breakfast after the sunrise service on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. Plan to join us for rolls, donuts, ham, breakfast casseroles, juice, coffee, and milk. A free will offering will be taken for the Food Pantry in Leslie. Thrivent will match the free will offering for the Leslie Food Pantry. Hope to see you at the breakfast!*

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

*Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be following the 10:30 AM service on Easter Sunday. Donations of pre-decorated hard boiled eggs would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday morning to the kitchen. The hunt is open to children from birth to age 7 or grade 2.*

## **Easter Lilies**

Once again this year, Easter lilies will beautify our Church on Easter Sunday. They will be displayed in our services at Easter. Please consider placing a lily in Church to the glory of God and in memory of a loved one, or to honor someone. The cost of each lily will be \$7.00. Mary Sprick will need to know if you'd like to place an Easter lily by Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be an insert in our Sunday bulletins on March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Pasta House Offer**

**The Pasta House Company Union – Give Back to Community Promotion:** The owners of The Pasta House Company in Union, Missouri would like to give back to our local churches. Every Sunday for each member of our congregation that brings in a church bulletin, The Pasta House Company in Union will donate \$0.50 back to our church and give members 10% off their entire check. At the end of each month, they will count how many bulletins they receive from our church and send a check to our church for that amount. So come to The Pasta House Company in Union for a family lunch or dinner and give back to our church. Kids eat free on Sunday's. (Must have a church bulletin for this offer) The Pasta House is located at 101 East Independence in Union.

## **Thrivent Educational Event**

*Our Thrivent group will be sponsoring an educational event with a pot luck on July 17, 2011. In order to choose a topic that is of interest to many people we are including a survey in the April bulletins. Please take a few minutes to choose your favorites – per directions on the survey and deposit the survey in a basket at the back of the Church. The following are the topics that could be considered and discussed.*

\*Charitable Giving: Making a Difference by Giving Back

\*How to Thrive in Retirement

\*Identity Theft: What You Need to Know

\*Making a Difference: Sharing Your Time, Talents, and Treasures

\*Understanding Your Credit

\*Your Social Security Statement: Understanding Your Retirement Benefits and Opportunities

Please watch the April bulletins for the Thrivent Survey inserts and instructions.

## **Earthquake and Tsunami Information**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Japan experienced a catastrophic 9.0 magnitude earthquake that spawned a deadly tsunami. According to news reports, the death toll is expected to exceed at least 10,000 people and thousands more are missing or injured. This disaster also has caused tens of billions of dollars in property and economic losses. Please keep the Japanese people in your prayers.

LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison asks, “Please join me in prayer for the earthquake and tsunami victims and their families. I would suggest the Litany. And let us also during this Lenten season, make use of the historic discipline of caring for the needy (Matt 6:2-4).”

LCMS World Mission reports that all LCMS missionaries in Japan are safe. Preliminary reports from our LCMS partner church, the Japan Lutheran Church, also state that all of its workers are safe. “We are in contact with our Lutheran partners and colleagues throughout the Pacific region. As they assess needs, we will respond appropriately as requested,” said Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response with LCMS World Relief and Human Care. “it is for times such as this that we Lutherans – in both Japan and the U. S. must act decisively in our life together to witness to the mercy of the loving God and to be present as His hands of hope and healing,” said Dr. David Birner, Associate Executive Director, International, for LCMS World Mission.

World Relief and Human Care will work with LCMS missionaries in Japan, the Japan Lutheran Church and other Japanese Lutheran churches to bring tangible hope and relief to the many people affected by this disaster. The LCMS has set aside an initial \$200,000 for immediate relief from undesignated funds. As you and other caring Christians provide funds for these relief efforts, you enable the LCMS to respond as specific needs are received from Japan. Please give to Japanese Earthquake Relief now so that we can give the necessary help in the weeks and

months ahead. Please give: To make a donation for Lutheran relief efforts in Japan: **Mail:** Checks (noting “Japan Earthquake Relief” in the memo line) to: LCMS World Relief and Human Care P. O. Box 66861 St. Louis, Mo. 63166-6861.

## **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

*Later this month, we complete our remembrance of the Passion of our LORD and await the celebration of His victory over sin and death at Easter. He has given us a sure and certain hope of eternal life. Unfortunately, many in this world are trapped in the despair of sin and do not know the joy of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Your investment in Lutheran Church Extension Fund provides funds to churches that share this good news in their communities. Call 1-800-THE-LCEF (843-5233) or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org) for more information.*

### *Usher Schedule for April*

- 1: Donald Hoemann
- 2: Corey Adams
- 3: Bill Pohlmann
- 4: Tom Anderson
- 5: Elmer Kellmann
- Alternate: Paul Brune
- Head Usher: Lee Kassebaum

*Altar Guild for April*  
**Denise and Kate Walkenhorst**

*April Birthdays*  
**Jennifer Huellinghoff 4-1**

Paul Kassebaum	4-8	
Tim Huellinghoff	4-10	<b><u>April Anniversaries</u></b>
Kathleen Monzyk	4-10	Charles & Diane
Marvin Kassebaum	4-13	Luechtefeld 4-8
Codie Brunkhorst	4-13	Robert & Donna
Jeff Hohlt	4-13	Kirschenmann 4-9
Lowell Kassebaum	4-14	Gilbert & Lucille
Danika Donatti	4-14	Brune 4-12
Aiden Harter	4-16	Jeff & Dawn
Leonard Brune	4-17	Brunkhorst 4-16
Wilma Helling	4-17	Eugene & Kathy
Cornelia Bunge	4-18	Scheer 4-20
Leona Huxel	4-18	Warren & Janette
Donald Hoemann	4-21	Bauche 4-21
Janette Bauche	4-21	Felix & Rosemary
Michael Glosemeyer	4-22	Frye 4-21
Roy Brunkhorst	4-23	Anthony & Becky
Lloyd Kassebaum	4-28	Allmeroth 4-26
Alyssa Bopp	4-29	Doug & Ashley
		Compton 4-26
		Albert & Marilyn
		Bade 4-27

**“Happy Birthday and Blessed Anniversary to all who are celebrating your special day in April”**

*If your birthday or anniversary is listed incorrectly or not listed at all, please let Mary know!. Thank you!*

## **Acolyte Schedule for April**

### **April 3**

Alyssa Bopp  
Cody Adams  
Brian Nelson

### **Bell Ringer**

Codie Brunkhorst

### **April 10**

Brent Thurmond  
Paul Kassebaum  
Cody Adams

Corey Adams

### **April 17**

Alyssa Bopp  
Brian Nelson  
Brent Thurmond

Andrew Kassebaum

### **April 24 (Easter)**

Cody Adams  
Paul Kassebaum  
Brent Thurmond

Jeff Hohlt

## **Quarterly Voter's Meeting**

**Our Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held Monday, April 18, at 7:30 PM. The Church Officer's Meeting will be held Thursday, April 14, 2011. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting!**

## **Annual Picnic Information**

Our Annual Church Picnic will be held the second Sunday in June – June 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have music and entertainment again this year. We are not sure who this will be yet, so if anyone has suggestions, please give Bill Pohlmann a call at 573-237-3315 or cell 573-694-3106. There will be fun activities for the kids. Prices for the meals will be \$9 for adults & \$3 for children under 6 years old. Please support the Silent Auction by getting donations for it. Please see the following paragraph from Karen Sprick. There will be letters available to give to businesses to verify what they are donating to. Our give-away drawing will be \*1<sup>st</sup> prize – half a beef; \*2<sup>nd</sup> prize – half a beef, \*3<sup>rd</sup> prize – half a hog, \*4<sup>th</sup> prize – half a hog. Donation tickets for the drawing will be available soon. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of Church by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Help will be needed on the Thursday before the picnic (June 9<sup>th</sup>). More information will follow in future bulletins.

“I would like to thank all those who brought items last year for the silent auction and brought the items early. It is time to think about donations again for this year. If you have a donation, please bring it and leave it on the table in the old basement or Ladies Aid room upstairs, along with your name, what the donation is and the value of the item. If you plan to donate plants or food, please fill out one of the slips available in the two areas so that the paper work can be completed. Thank you for your donations”.

**Karen Sprick**

### **Choir Schedule**

April 6 – Practice at 6:45 PM  
April 13 – Practice at 6:45 PM  
April 17 – Choir sings  
April 21 – Practice at 7:00 PM  
April 22 – Men’s Chorus sings  
April 24 – Choir sings

**The song selection for the Sundays in Lent will be determined weekly.**

## Monthly Treasurer's Summary

### February 2011

Beginning checking balance	\$22,718.56
Receipts	\$8,005.22
Disbursements	\$12,143.30
Ending checking balance	\$18,580.48
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$800.00
LCEF 2010 loan balance	\$60,162.98
Other outstanding notes	\$0
Monthly receipts needed to meet budget	\$11,798.00
Surplus or (shortfall) in actual receipts	(\$3,792.78)

# APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Ladies Aid 1:30 PM <sup>1</sup>	Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM <sup>2</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:00 AM <sup>3</sup>	Adult Confirmation 3:30 PM <sup>4</sup>	Elders 7:00 PM <sup>5</sup>	Confirmation 6:30 Lenten Worship 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM <sup>6</sup>	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup>	Worship 5:00 PM <sup>9</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM <sup>10</sup>	Adult Confirmation 3:30 PM <sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	Confirmation 6:30 Lenten Worship 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM <sup>13</sup>	Officers' Meeting 7:00 PM <sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>	Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM <sup>16</sup>
Sunday of the Passion Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:00 with Confirmation Examination <sup>17</sup>	Adult Confirmation 3:30 PM Voters' Meeting 7:30 PM <sup>18</sup>	<sup>19</sup>	Confirmation 6:30 <sup>20</sup>	Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM <sup>21</sup>	Good Friday Worship 10:00 AM & 7:30 PM <sup>22</sup>	Easter Vigil Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM with Baptism and adult confirmation <sup>23</sup>
Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM Easter Breakfast 7:30 AM Worship with Communion 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 <sup>24</sup>	St. Mark, Evangelist Adult Confirmation 3:30 PM <sup>25</sup>	Sunday School and Education Meeting 7:00 PM <sup>26</sup>	Confirmation 6:30 <sup>27</sup>	Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM <sup>28</sup>	National Arbor Day <sup>29</sup>	Worship with Adult Confirmation 5:00 PM <sup>30</sup>