

April Newsletter 2017



The Season of Easter Easter Sunday – April 16

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

Rejected That We Might be Accepted

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). Matthew 17:45-46

"Son, I don't want anything to do with you!" These are the most devastating words a son can hear. It's worse when the father says nothing, but simply turns his back and walks away. Jesus faced this rejection from His Father as He breathed out His life on the cross.

"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The scourging, beatings, and ridicule were unbearable, but this rejection by His Father was worse. Darkness over Jerusalem from 12:00 till 3:00 p.m. dramatically underscored the chaos and devastation of this rejection. But Matthew did give us an answer to Jesus' question. Remember the name the angel gave to Joseph at the beginning in the birth narrative? "You will call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 11:21).

God rejected His Son so that we could be forgiven. Because God turned away from His Son at Calvary, He will never turn away from those of us who trust His Son's payment for our sins. The Apostle Paul put it like this, "He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

PRAYER: LORD, I know how much it hurts me when I'm rejected, but I'll never begin to know your agony when You screamed out as your Father turned away. Challenged about your identity as God's Son and ridiculed as powerless to do anything about your shame—if proof is needed that we humans deserve eternal punishment, it was proved by those who mocked and watched at the foot of the cross. Why You took our death sentence, I will never understand, but help me never stop singing,

“He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou my God, shouldst die for me!”

Easter Breakfast

Plan to join us for breakfast after the sunrise service on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. We will have an assortment of breakfast casseroles, juice, milk, coffee cake, donuts, and coffee. A free will offering will be used for our missionaries support (Robin McCoy and Rob Hilbert Family). Our recycle funds for the missionaries is close to \$1,000.00. We are hoping to pass this along to them soon.

Recycle Update

We are pleased to report the addition of \$18.30 from recycle aluminum and \$36.30 from recycle paper. Recycle for missionaries totals: Aluminum - \$5,026.26, Newspaper - \$1,058.91, Grand total - \$9,836.06. Thanks for all of your help and support.

Our missionaries are very thankful.

Lutheran Family and Children's Service of Missouri

Your gifts can sustain more than you think. Do you find yourself wanting to give more, but can't make a large one-time gift every year? Don't worry! As we deeply appreciate any support for Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri programs, you can easily help sustain ongoing programs and services through small reoccurring gifts. The **LFCS Sustaining Hope Monthly Giving Program** is set up to have your specified gift amount made automatically at your preferred frequency through your designated bank account or credit card. It's easy on your budget, and to us and the people we serve, it's a reliable stream of support throughout the entire year. Learn more at lfcsmo.org/donate. Should you have any questions or like additional information, please contact LFCS Marketing Director, Megan Nichols, at 314-754-2785.

Request from Mercy Hospice

We have received the following request from Stephanie Marquart, Volunteer Coordinator at Mercy Hospice. She is currently seeking volunteers to serve in the community because of growth in our patient population. Mercy Hospice serves terminally ill patients and their families throughout the area. Volunteers are provided with free training before they are asked to serve any patient and family.

Mercy Hospice is currently seeking volunteers to offer support and comfort to patients and families in our community. Volunteers are matched with opportunities to serve according to their schedules, skills, comfort levels and geographic area. Volunteer opportunities include: caregiver relief, emotional support, life review videos, bereavement support, Mercy Companions, administrative assistance, sewing and many other great opportunities. The next free

training will be Wednesdays May 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 1:00 – 5:00. For more information please contact Stephanie Marquart, Volunteer Coordinator at 636-239-8862 or stephanie.marquart@mercy.net. Please see the Hospice Volunteer Opportunities brochure on the bulletin board at the back of Church.

Lutheran Bible Translators Newsletter
From Rob and Mical Hilbert Serving in Botswana

Our Ebenezer Mission Society helps support Lutheran Bible Translators. “**Literacy Work** – Work has begun on two projects utilizing some amazing software developed by SIL called *Bloom*. Rob will be working with the Khwedam language project (coordinated by LBT Missionary Rev. Tim Beckendorf) as well as managing the Shekgalagari literacy project. The goal is to produce literature that will help promote the language and Bible translation. **Chiikuhane New Testament Project** – Rob has also been helping to set up the Chiikuhane New Testament translation Project. Chiikuhane is spoken by about 40,000 people in Botswana and Namibia. The project has already begun thanks to the efforts of LBT Missionary Rev. Dr. Megahan, community organizations and volunteer translators. Rob will work with the Bible Society of Botswana in partnership to further develop the project. Eventually the project will partner with new LBT missionaries set to join the field in 2018. The hope is that a New Testament will be published by 2026. The Shekgalagari New Testament translation continues. The translators Pontsho and Tshwari are drafting 1st Corinthians and Revelation respectively. The team was fortunate to receive a former missionary’s vehicle for project use. This has greatly improved the teams ability to community test and travel. Although the car is old, it still gets around the sandy roads of the Kalahari quite well.

Two of Rob and Mical Hilbert’s children are now attending a small private English-medium primary school. They are both happily involved in Bible club, and swimming, and busy making friends among the local community. The school community is an answered prayer so thank you for your prayers!” “We would love to hear from you, feel free to email or write us anytime – although mail can take up to two months to reach us!” “Contact us at PO Box Ha. 137 Hak Maun, Botswana or Rob-Mical.Hilbert@lbt.org”

Please see a copy of the Hilbert Prayer Letter “Serving in Botswana” on the bulletin board at the back of Church. This also contains pictures of the Hilberts and information about contributing to Lutheran Bible Translators P. O. Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020.

The Liturgical Colors

Gold suggests the rich and royal grace of God displayed in the victory of Christ.

White suggests gladness, light, and joy. It is accordingly used for festivals of Christ and during the seasons of Easter and Christmas.

Red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Christ and his martyrs. It is used for the Day of Pentecost, Reformation Day, dedications and anniversaries of a church congregation, ordinations and church conventions.

Green the color of living, growing plants, suggests spiritual growth. It is used during the time of Epiphany and Pentecost.

Blue is the color of hope and may be used during Advent.

Purple (violet) is used during Lent to suggest somberness and sobriety.

Black, the color of mourning, is used on Ash Wednesday and may be used on Good Friday.

Picnic Requests

It was voted to have a picnic again this year, so there will also be a Silent Auction. Please be thinking about things that you might donate.

If you have some craft that you do, perhaps you might consider an item that you made. If there is a business or restaurant that you frequent, perhaps you could ask them for a donation. There are donation letters on the table at the back of Church. The auction has been successful in the past because of your help. Please consider helping again this year. If you need more information, please contact Karen Sprick.

April Birthdays

Jennifer Huellinghoff	4-1	
Jane Schroeder	4-7	We wish all of you a
Paul Kassebaum	4-8	very "Happy Birthday"
Tim Huellinghoff	4-10	
Kathleen Monzyk	4-10	
Mia Louise Gardner	4-12	
Marvin Kassebaum	4-13	
Cody Brunkhorst	4-13	
Jeff Hohlt	4-13	
Lowell Kassebaum	4-14	
Danika Donatti	4-14	
Pat Cardwell	4-15	
Aiden Harter	4-16	
Wilma Helling	4-17	
Donald Hoemann	4-21	
Janette Bauche	4-21	
Michael Glosemeyer	4-23	
Roy Brunkhorst	4-23	
David Brune	4-25	
Lloyd Kassebaum	4-28	
Brandi Brune	4-28	
Alyssa Bopp	4-29	
Aubree Southerland	4-29	

April Anniversaries

Charles & Dianne Luechtefeld	4-8	
Robert & Donna Kirschenmann	4-9	
Jeff & Dawn Brunkhorst	4-16	We wish all of you a “Blessed Anniversary”
Eugene & Kathy Scheer	4-20	
Warren & Janette Bauche	4-21	
Felix & Rosemary Frye	4-21	
Anthony & Becky Allmeroth	4-26	
Douglas & Ashley Compton	4-26	
Albert & Marilyn Bade	4-27	

April Altar Guild

Jenny Redhage and Julie Hilkerbaumer

Usher Schedule for April

- 1: Donald Hoemann
- 2: Adam Brune
- 3: Trent Huellinghoff
- 4: Alan Hilkerbaumer
- 5: Elmer Kellmann
- Alternate: Paul Brune
- Head Usher: Marvin Kassebaum

Bell Ringer Schedule for April

April 2

Cody Adams

April 9

Trent Huellinghoff

April 16

Corey Adams

April 23

Jeff Hohlt

April 30

Cody Adams

Monthly Treasurer's Summary February 2017

Beginning checking balance	\$30,571.49
Receipts	\$8,226.54
Disbursements	\$8,753.53
Ending checking balance	\$30,044.50
LCEF savings balance	\$30,440.69
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,659.53
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$800.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	\$-3,054.87

Make Each Day of Your Life.....

A Gift....

**Greet it with a grateful heart. Imagine your future.
Make some new plans. Remember your uniqueness.
Reflect on how much you are loved.**

A Present to Yourself....

**Do something fun, special, magical, and memorable.
Appreciate your gifts. Recognize your talents. It's really
okay to concentrate on you. Be thankful for what makes
you you.**

A Time to Celebrate....

**The greatest gift you've been given is you. Celebrate
yourself...with hope, with joy, with appreciation. Dare to
dream. Open your heart and let yourself go as far as your
mine will take you. Drop any regrets and negative
thoughts that hold you down.**

A Day to Be Happy....

**Count your blessings; love your life; treasure your family
and friends and all that you're thankful for. Above all,**

soak in the gift of each moment and enjoy it with all your heart.

Holy Week – Easter Schedule

April 8 & 9	Palm Sunday Service	Saturday 5:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM
April 9	Sunday School	9:00 AM
April 12	Confirmation	6:30 PM
April 13	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	10:00 AM (in church) 7:00 PM
April 14	Good Friday Service	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
April 15	Easter Vigil Worship with Holy Communion	5:00 PM
April 16	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 AM
	Easter Breakfast	7:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Easter Service with Holy Communion	10:00 AM
	Easter Egg Hunt	11:15 AM

Easter Egg Hunt

We will again have an Easter Egg Hunt after church on Easter Sunday immediately following the 10:00 AM service. All children are invited. For more information or to assist please call Julie Hilkerbaumer at 636-584-9239.

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Cancer Dinner prep. Worship 5:00 PM with Holy Communion
2 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 with Holy Communion CANCER DINNER After Church	3	4 Elders 7:00 PM	5 Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 Worship 7:00 PM	6 Worship 10:00 AM Officers Meeting 7:00 PM	7 Ladies Aid 1:30 PM	8 Worship 5:00 PM
9 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	10 VOTERS MEETING 7:30 PM	11	12 Confirmation 6:30	13 Maundy Thursday Worship 10:00 AM With Holy Communion Worship 7:00 PM With Holy Communion	14 GOOD FRIDAY Worship 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM	15 Easter Vigil Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 PM
16 Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM Easter Breakfast 7:30 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 11:15	17	18	19 Washington Circuit Pastors Meeting w/ Pres. Hagan at Ebenezer 8:30 AM Confirmation 6:30	20 Bible Study 10:00 AM Education/Teachers meeting 7:00 PM	21 Pastor at Seminary during the day. Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM	22 Wedding Miller /Hoemann 2:00 PM Cub Scouts AM Worship w/Holy Communion 5:00 PM
23 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Afternoon – Bade Anniversary at church	24	25	26 Confirmation 6:30	27 Pastor and Margaret to St. Louis, no Bible Study	28	29 Greeting Card Make & Take 9:00 AM
30 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00						