

THE

MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
50 Erskine Road, Ringwood, New Jersey

Volume LV

No. 4



APRIL, 2024

Well, prior to Holy Week, we finished going through the Parables of Jesus on Thursdays. It was an intriguing study, on both sides of the podium, I'm sure. The study on the books for Thursdays is a study about worship. It includes Divine Worship, Vestments, Paraments, and the colors of the Liturgical calendar. I have been planning it for a while now and constantly revising my work into a study format.

All of this has brought me to another point. It is about what we do pre-worship. Before worship I pray with the Elders and the acolytes. The prayer is usually about blessing the work of leading worship for the congregation. Then when the bells chime, we ascend the stairs into the Sanctuary. It is fairly cut and dry.



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

But what do the people assembled for worship do? In the congregations I have participated in as field worker, vicar and pastor, there were different practices. In the congregations I attended when I was younger, the practice was mostly the same and taught and encouraged across the board by the pastors.

In the congregations I was raised in, it was taught that the pre-service time was to be spent reflecting on God's blessings that you received throughout the week and to reflect on how much you needed God's grace and mercy in your life. It was usually a quiet time, spent in reflection listening to the prelude.

For some, the time before worship is a time to catch up on what is going on in each other's lives. Maybe it is just checking on one or another to make sure everything is going okay. There is not really anything wrong with that. The problem is when it gets out of hand, it really gets out of hand. People will attempt to talk over the organ, and that never ends well.

Still for others, it is a time to cordially greet others, especially visitors and offer help to them. Again, there is nothing wrong with this. We should be encouraged and encouraging to those who visit us.

So how do you spend your time before worship? Do you quietly contemplate God's works of mercy in your life? Do you catch up on the week with the people around you? Do greet others and encourage them in their worship? It is certainly something to think about.

God Bless,

Pastor

MISSIONS



Our mission focus for the month of April is Orphan Grain Train. Our church receives a quarterly newsletter from this group and we try to share with you some of its many activities. Orphan Grain Train was founded in 1992 by Pastor Ray Wilke, a pastor from Nebraska who, on a mission

trip to Latvia, was made acutely aware of the suffering and needs of the people. It wasn't long after that trip that OGT expanded its work to needy people around the world and the United States. Several branches now cooperate in funding, accumulating items for shipment and teaching skills for an improved life. Orphanage adoption has proven to be one of the most effective and successful endeavors. Children often end up in orphanages because their parents are unable to provide care for them. In St. Petersburg, Russia, for example, OGT supports Hannah House directed by two pastors which provides employment skills to the young men and women released from orphanages at age 17 or 18 who would otherwise be drafted into the Russian army or exploited by the Russian mob. Spiritual growth activities are also part of the Hannah House agenda. Lutheran missionary, Tim Nickel, visited us many years ago and inspired this congregation to join in OGT's work. So, once again, our people have an opportunity to help make a difference – use your mission envelope – generously – a helping hand from Ringwood, New Jersey to people wherever OGT fills a need.



MARK IT DOWN!

The annual Prayer Breakfast will be on April 20. The guest speaker is Matthew Montgomery whose topic will be Concordia Colleges.

Arrangements are in place for a sumptuous breakfast. The cost per person is \$5. Be sure to sign up with a member of the Missions Committee. We want Rev. Montgomery to receive a warm Christ the King welcome!

Christ is Risen! Smile!

COUNCIL CORNER

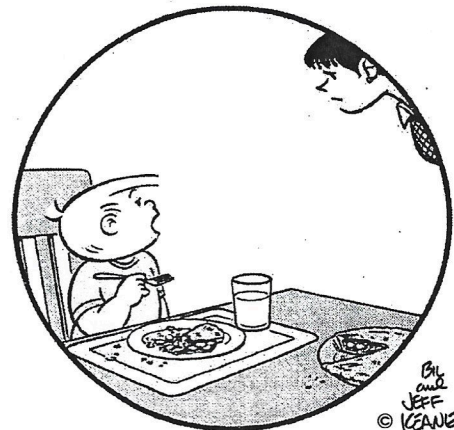
Pastor Eric Rieker, formerly pastor of St. Paul's of the Incarnation in Pompton Lakes, gave a short presentation on the Synodical Convention action plan and what New Jersey Bishop, Stephen Gewecke plans to accomplish. Council approved the purchase of Quickbooks. Improvements to the sanctuary will be addressed after Easter. Pastor reported he has completed a paper on the Christology found in the movie "Magnificent Seven." Financial Secretary reported total given in unpledged offerings was \$8,760. The next council meeting is April 9.

A CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



The Easter lily is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb. The lily is also a symbol of purity often used to represent the Virgin Mary.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, how many days do I get for an apple pie?"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
© Bil & Jeff Keane
Reprinted with permission

BITS & PIECES

Many thanks to our worship supplies sponsors – they are a real help to the budget: Judy Sladky for candles; Gladys Wagner for wine and wafers; Brad and Carol Wiley for palms and ashes. If interested in helping with second quarter supplies give a call to Brad or Carol Wiley at 973-714-5684.

The LCMS Mission Classic Golf Outing is May 2 at Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes, New Jersey. Representing Christ the King are David Pry, Tom and Jeannine Sheerin and Pastor Hodges. The event will benefit the Hispanic Ministry.

Ringwood Friends of Music will present the Jasper Quartet on Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 at the Ringwood Community Church.

Movie Night here at Christ the King is Friday, April 12, starting at 6:30 with a Pot Luck Supper.

Rev. Anthony Giordano has been installed as Pastor of Calvary/Verona.

A quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly is scheduled for April 21 with a Coffee Hour hosted by the Church Council.

Answer to Bible Quiz: C (See Acts 17:23-26.

SEMINARIAN NEWS

It's always a pleasure to receive a letter from Andrew Partipilo. He includes tidbits about his boys, Ezra and Eli, lets us in on Audrey's activities and never fails to include charming pictures of his beautiful family. In his letter he tells us how challenging this second quarter has been but the courses he took covered a wide range of things a pastor will need. On April 23 he will know his vicarage placement. An exciting step in his journey to serve a congregation himself. Audrey is immersed in her music and homeschooling her boys. Andrew's letter is posted in the narthex so please check more of what he has to say. We look forward to hearing where he will serve his vicarage.

“Just when a caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.”

-- Old proverb



March roared in like a lion and snuck away like a lamb as illustrated in the entryway and Hall of Art. Folks from Ringwood's Ambulance Corps visited and the children were given an opportunity to explore an ambulance, peek inside a worker's bag and test out a

stretcher. They were even treated to a bandaid dispenser – a happily received surprise! Of course, Dinosaur Week is always greeted with enthusiasm. What child doesn't like digging for dinosaur bones, play dinosaur games and listen to dinosaur stories. Add to all this the boys and girls tasted the greens growing in the hydroponic gardens, added new sight words to memory, learned rhyming words and play alphabet bingo. Busy, busy, busy kids!



MUSICAL THERAPY

We probably don't have to remind you but we will anyway. Our choirs have been slaving away practicing for the Concert coming up on April 14.

It will be an afternoon to soothe you, uplift you, not to mention impress you. Twenty-six folks generously contributed to the cost of the orchestra which adds to the professionalism of the group of singers all of which, we might add, are talented but "just plain" folks. Don't miss this event. Bach's Easter cantata is featured but there is also music by Natalie Sleeth, Gerald Coleman and Ralph Schultz. A reception will follow to greet and thank the participants from Christ the King and four other congregations. It's 3:00 on the 14th. Be there or be square.

MARCH STATISTICS

Average in-church attendance was 80; attendance at mid-week Lenten devotions was 83. Maundy Thursday attendance was 46; Good Friday was 70; Easter Vigil was 29. Offerings totaled \$13,360.50; missions giving was \$345; choir concert gifts were \$1950.

“Joy is not in things. It is in us.”

--Wagner

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Celebrating years of blessings graciously provided by our Father and those in the coming year are CHRIS and MACKENZIE DEPREE, STEVE LYNN, RICHARD WILEY, SAMAN-

THA WRIGHT, JENNIFER JOHANNSON, JOSHUA SHEERIN, AURORA HOUSE, ABIGAIL PALKEWICK, AMELIA and DELILAH BIERWAS.

We are most appreciative of those who provided soups for our Lenten Soup Suppers and so we thank CAROL PRY, RENATE GUDAT, CAROLINE REER, JEANNINE SHEERIN, KEN and BIRGITTE HANSEN, BARBARA HOFFMANN and ANGELA SADLO.

BIBLE QUIZ

A follower of Jesus traveled the world, spreading the Good News of Christ. While in Athens, Greece, he saw an altar with an inscription that read "To an unknown god."

Who was the follower?

- A. Mark
- B. Peter
- C. Paul
- D. Luke

GEEZER QUESTIONS

Question: Where can single men over The age of 60 find younger women who are interested in them?

Answer: Try a bookstore, under "Fiction."

Question: Why should 60 plus-year-old people use valet parking?

Answer: Valets don't forget where they park a car.

Question: What is the most common remark made by 60 plus-year-olds when they enter antique stores?

Answer: Gosh, I remember these!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOPS



The Sunday School children made and sent greeting cards to shut-in members, older members and members they

haven't seen for a while. The Easter Breakfast was provided by the teachers and included an egg hunt and a play written by the teens. The teens also distributed mint-filled eggs to the worshipers on Easter Sunday.

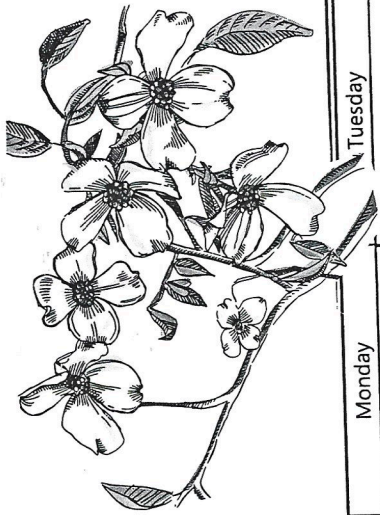
Confirmation classes end this month. Students will be interviewed by the Elders and a date for Confirmation will be announced.

Bible Class resumes on Thursday, April 18. Having completed a study of the Parables a look at the Liturgy, Paraments and church colors will be the new topic.

A date for this year's Vacation Bible School is being considered. It appears that August will be the month and the exact date will soon be announced together with the theme.

Christ is Risen! Smile!

Christ the King Lutheran Church
50 Erskine Road Ringwood, NJ 07456
Office Phone: 973-962-6384
Nursery School Phone: 973-962-6767
e-mail: ctkringwood@optimum.net
Web-site: www.ctk-ringwood.org
Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan E. Hodges
Nursery School Director: Jeannine Sheerin
Director of Music: Scott Sadlo
Church Secretary: Barbara Pry
Sunday Worship: 10:30
Sunday School & Adult Class: 9:15



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
Alleluia! Christ is risen!		Ramapo Mt. Radio Club 7:00	A.A. Mtg. 7:00 Conf. Cl. 4:30			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S.S. & Adult Cl. 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 Bd/Missions		Bd/Elders 7:00 Council 8:00	A.A. Mtg. 7:00 Conf. Cl. 4:30		Pot Luck Supper & Movie Night	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
S.S. & Adult Cl. 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 Chancel Guild CHOIR CONCERT 3:00			A.A. Mtg. 7:00 Conf. Cl. 4:30	Bible Study 10:30		PRAYER BREAKFAST 9:00-11:30
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
S.S. & Adult Cl. 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 VOTERS ASSBY & Coffee Hour		Circuit Conf. 9:30	A.A. Mtg. 7:00 Conf. Cl. 4:30	Bible Study 10:30		
28	29	30				
S.S. & Adult Cl. 9:15 WORSHIP 10:30 Prayer Sisters						

