

ANNOUNCEMENTS WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ashlyn; Jim Lambert; Chuck Kellogg; Jim Cleveland; Aiden Snyder; Emily Slone; Jack; Megan Mullet & family

THE VOTERS' MEETING for the spring quarter is TODAY at 9:00am.

THE YOUTH GROUP will meet TONIGHT from 6:00 – 7:30pm. Join us for supper, fellowship, and Christian discussion of various issues.

MEN AND BOYS: we are going to begin scheduling ushers and acolytes to serve during Sunday and Wednesday services. Please see Pr. Mullet for more information and to put your name on the list! Thank you.

MASK-REQUIRED SERVICES will continue on Wednesdays at 11am.

VICARAGE & CANDIDATE PLACEMENT SERVICES will be live-streamed on 4/26 and 4/27, both at 7pm. Watch on Monday to meet our new vicar and Tuesday to see where Sem. Marks will serve as pastor!

TIN CAPS! We have reserved tickets for Sunday, July 11. \$10 each includes an all-you-can-eat picnic lunch at the ballpark beginning at 12 noon, followed by the baseball game at 1:05pm. Mark your calendars! We should have tickets available to purchase in the next week or two.

CALENDAR

Sun. Apr. 11 (Easter 2 - Quasimodo)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Voters' Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group
Wed. Apr. 14	11:00am Holy Communion (mask req'd.) 7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. Apr. 15	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Apr. 18 (Easter 3 - Misericordias)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Bible Study

THE BACK PAGE

I'd like to try something new here on this "back page." My hope is that these short informal pieces can be edifying and informative. I might do devotionals, hymn studies, short Bible studies, or topical articles. Here's this week's back page:

Media vite in morte sumus: "In the midst of life we are in death."

This phrase has been used in a number of ways and adapted into many different forms over the centuries. It's seen in poetry, hymns, and even some funeral liturgies. Some might recognize the Latin words from certain classical music. But regardless of whether you've heard it before, I think the sentiment is one we can all empathize with to some degree.

The words are reflective of a harsh reality: the wages of sin is death, and in this earthly life we are virtually guaranteed to grieve the loss of loved ones at some point. We, too, will someday face our own death. This presents something of a paradox for Christians, perhaps especially in the joyous season of Easter. We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and look forward to our own resurrection, and yet, "in the midst of life we are in death."

While there is no perfect answer to such problems as these—at least not on this side of glory—nevertheless the celebration of Easter offers great comfort, hope, and encouragement for us even as we mourn the loss of loved ones and as we consider our own mortality. This past week marked the nine-year anniversary of my father's death after a battle with cancer. Many others are mourning in similar ways. I was especially struck by the final stanza of our closing hymn for today (LSB 490 st. 5):

Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

Indeed, our earthly death is temporary, a gate to life everlasting. Because Jesus lives, our loved ones will live again. Because Jesus lives, we too shall live! So in faith we cry: Jesus is our confidence!