

ANNOUNCEMENTS
WEEK OF APRIL 9, 2023

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jack & Lureen Vaught; Darlene Welsh; Walt & Carolyn Trier; Bob Schneider; Carl Oelschlager; Aiden Snyder; Connie; Penny & Cleveland family; Ralph Hammel; Michele Zeller; Jerry & Sylvia Braun; Roy Kincaid; Terry Hull; Morgan & Amelia Phillips & Kelsey

THANK YOU to the choir for singing this week!

ELDERS AND COUNCIL meet this Tuesday, April 11, at 6pm & 7pm.

BEGINNING THIS WEEK: Wednesday morning matins / Book of Concord study will be discontinued. **Instead, join us for Vespers on Thursdays at 6:30pm right before Bible study at 7:00pm!**

THE MEN'S GROUP will NOT meet in the month of April.

VOTERS' MEETING for spring quarter **next Sunday, April 16**, at 9am.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP will have an "outing" to attend the LWML Zone Gathering on Saturday, April 22, at 9:00am at St. John's in Columbia City.

WE ARE SEEKING a volunteer to assist with caring for our altar linens and changing the paraments between seasons. Contact the church office!

HIGHER THINGS: pick up a registration form from Pastor Mullet. In addition to the completed forms we require a deposit of \$100 per attendee.

CALENDAR

Sun. Apr. 9 (Easter Sunday)	6:15am Sunrise Service 7:00am Easter Breakfast (<i>ongoing</i>) 8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service
Mon. Apr. 10	8:30am Discussion of next Sunday's readings
Tue. Apr. 11	6:00 / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. Apr. 12	7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Apr. 13	6:30pm Vespers 7:00pm Bible Study (James)
Sun. Apr. 16 (Easter 2 – Quasimodo Geniti)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Voters' Meeting

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On our Hymn of the Day, Luther's "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands":

The hymn begins by echoing the words of St. Peter recorded in Acts 2:24: "God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it." Christ's resurrection brings us life and salvation: "He will swallow up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8). In faith, the Christian joyfully praises the Lord.

Stanza 2 is filled with the Law's harshest condemnation of sin and its consequence, death: "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). In stanzas 3 and 4, Luther restates in poetic form what he had written in *The Freedom of the Christian* (1520):

Here we have a most pleasing vision not only of communion but of a blessed struggle and victory and salvation and redemption. Christ is God and Man in one person. He has neither sinned nor died, and is not condemned, and he cannot sin, die, or be condemned; His righteousness, life and salvation are unconquerable, eternal and omnipotent. By the wedding ring of faith He shares in the sins, death, and pains of hell which are His bride's. . . . He suffered, died, and descended into hell that He might overcome them all. Now since it was such a one who did all of this, and death and hell could not swallow Him up, these were necessarily swallowed up by Him in a mighty duel; for His righteousness is greater than the sins of all men, His life stronger than death, His salvation more invincible than hell.

In stanzas 5 and 6, Luther captures the biblical teaching of the Passover lamb (Exodus 12) and its connection to Christ's victory on the cross over sin, death, and hell.

Finally, in stanza 7, Luther interprets the Passover lamb imagery in light of the Sacrament of the Altar: "Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other!"

Each stanza ends with a bold Easter "alleluia": praise the Lord, for He is victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil!

Adapted from *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns, vol. 1* (CPH, 2019), pp. 331-332. Luther quotation from *The Freedom of the Christian* (1520), found in *Luther's Works, American Edition* (Fortress, 1958), 31:351-352.