



# April 2017

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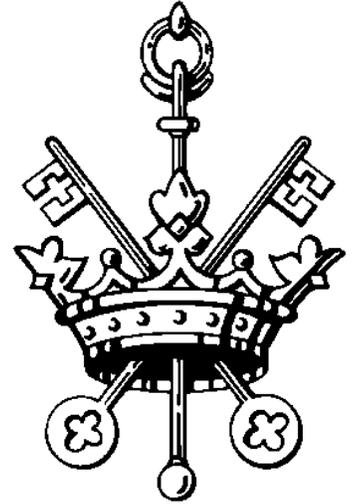
desperate about leaving them behind. Easter frees us from having to fret over every little decision we make as if there were no going back. We are free to do our best, take risks, and be daring. The consequences of our actions are real and significant but they are not ultimate. Easter frees us from the temptation to work ourselves to death under the mistaken impression that this is all there is to life. We are free to do as much good for one another as possible and to enjoy our lives as much as possible. All of these freedoms come from being forgiven and restored to immortality. They are the fruit of the Gospel.

At this moment in our country the fears and hopes of the people are very close to the surface. Our anxieties and aspirations are on display for all to see in a way that is unusual even for Americans. There is a tension among us that has captured everyone's attention. What does the Gospel have to say to us about this? How does Easter connect to our civic situation?

Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead, puts all things into perspective for us. It shows us that Christ is, indeed, the only begotten Son of God. It shows us that His death for us on the cross succeeded in forgiving our sins. It shows us that all of His promises to us, no matter how hard to believe or understand, will be kept as certainly as that of His own resurrection. It tells us that we too, by God's grace, are immortal, the heirs of everlasting life.

Easter sets us free from some of the greatest anxieties in life. It frees us from the compulsion to squeeze every last drop of pleasure from life on earth because it assures us that the best is yet to come. We can enjoy our lives here without becoming

At this moment the desperate desire of our countrymen for that kind of liberty is unusually obvious. It is also obvious that they are looking for it in all the wrong places. Freedom comes from the Gospel, not from the Law and least of all from any temporal authority. Neither the Law of God nor the laws of the land have the power to change the people they govern. Change comes with the forgiveness of sins, by grace, through faith, for Christ's sake alone. We Christians know that the freedom that Christ gives us is the most powerful force in the world. It transformed the mighty Roman Empire. It survived the Dark Ages and sparked the Renaissance. It provided the very basis for personal liberty that allows our neighbors to speak their minds and express



their fears. It also has the power to calm those fears and change all minds.

As springtime spreads across our country, I encourage all of you to listen carefully to what your neighbors are saying about our life together. When you hear people talking about their fear of losing what they've earned, when you hear them talking about their fear of being denied opportunities, think of how being forgiven has put your own fears at ease and share that good news with them. Turn the often ugly political conversations going on among us into conversations about hope and confidence in the goodness of God. Christians are distinguished by their love and this year that love might be most obvious and startling when it takes the form of gratitude. Let the peace of Christmas and the promise of Easter combine to form a calming hope that spreads from our homes and our congregation out into the world, quieting fears and fostering thanksgiving wherever it goes. The Word of God is powerful beyond our imagination. It gives life to all who hear it.

*Pastor Varsogea*

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# April 2017

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
12	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood			7:30 PM Lenten Vespers	10:00 AM Banner Folding		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study			7:30 PM Lenten Vespers	10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study		7:00 PM Game Night 9:00 AM Big Event
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
14	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class		6:30 PM Ladies' Planning Meeting				
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
15	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast		6:30 PM Elders' Meeting 7:00 PM Council Meeting				
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
16	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood				10:00 AM Banner Folding		8:00 AM Rummage & Yummage
	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
17	9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Bible Class				10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study		



## Lent, Holy Week, & Easter Services

During Lent, a Vespers service will be offered at 7:30 PM every Wednesday through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday Mass will be celebrated on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Good Friday (April 14<sup>th</sup>) a solemn service will be held at Bethany at 7:30 PM. The Easter Vigil will begin on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with an Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt at 7:30 and Mass at 9:00 AM.



## Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase lilies this Easter there are two ways to place an order:

- 1) Cut out this form, put it with the donation in an offering envelope marked "Easter Lilies," and place it into the offering plate.
- 2) Cut out this form and leave it in the Church Office with your donation.

The Cost of each plant will be \$15.00  
All orders must be placed by Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Inscription: \_\_\_\_\_



## April Mile Stones

Birthdays:	Date	Baptisms:	Date
Dain W. Christensen	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev. C. D. Trouten	6 <sup>th</sup>
Zachary A. Prindle	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Katarina A. Varsogea	11 <sup>th</sup>
Jean E. Ramsey	4 <sup>th</sup>	Seth S. Schwanz	11 <sup>th</sup>
Seth S. Schwanz	6 <sup>th</sup>	Jeannette L. Harris	30 <sup>th</sup>
Greggory A. Dalman	10 <sup>th</sup>		
Jeannette L. Harris	13 <sup>th</sup>		
Alexander M. Varsogea	15 <sup>th</sup>		
Alexis G. Harris	20 <sup>th</sup>		
Linda R. Dalman	22 <sup>nd</sup>		
Erica Howell	24 <sup>th</sup>		
Marilyn L. M. Dalman	28 <sup>th</sup>		

Anniversaries:	Date
Rev. & Mrs. C. D. Trouten	21 <sup>st</sup>

These are listed so that you can celebrate these milestones with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

"If one member is honored, all the members rejoice."

[1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:26]



*Worship for Shut-Ins* airs Sunday mornings at 7 AM on channel 21.2 EPTA-TV, Sunday at 8 AM on 21.3, Comcast 252, or Frontier 9, and on Comcast 55 or Frontier 25 at 4:00 PM on Sundays and Mondays at 10 AM. This month's schedule is:

2<sup>nd</sup> – on Jn. 11:17-53 by Rev. P. E. Shoemaker

9<sup>th</sup> – on Jn. 12:13 by Rev. Dr. D. J. Brege

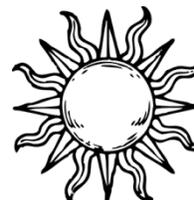
16<sup>th</sup> – on Ps. 118:24 by Rev. Dr. T. R. Ahlersmeyer

23<sup>rd</sup> – on 1Pe. 1:3-7 by Rev. Dr. W. A. Maier III

30<sup>th</sup> – on Lk. 24:21 by Rev. Dr. D. J. Brege

## Sunshine Corner

Please remember in your prayers our shut-ins: Stella Westerfield, Jerry Greene, Florine Sievers, & Mary Allmandinger.



# Bethany Lutheran Church Women News

Worship at Englewood will be on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. We would love to have more members of Bethany join us for the Matin service Pastor brings to the residents. Unfortunately, due to lack of participation, we will suspend bingo with the residents until such time as we have more interest among our members to join us in this activity.

Ladies, don't forget the next dates for our Bible Study: Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we will be holding our spring Big Event where students from IPFW will come to assist us with spring cleaning inside and out. Weather permitting, we are hoping to get the church grounds cleaned up. Please come join us in this worthwhile project (bring rakes, garden gloves, etc.). Lunch will be provided.

Mark your calendars, April 29<sup>th</sup> is our Rummage/Yummage sale. We have already begun collecting items for the sale. Anyone wishing to drop off items will need to make arrangements to have the doors opened. We will be taking two weeks, between Easter Sunday and the sale on the 29<sup>th</sup> to setup and price items. Church members finding items they'd like to purchase may do so at any time before the actual sale, we simply ask that you give your payment to Pam, Gina, or Dorothy when you take the items.

Our next Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All ladies at Bethany are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.

Have a blessed and peaceful April!

*Dorothy*

## The Life of the Church

You will noticed that, during Passiontide (from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>) the crosses and icons of our sanctuary will be covered with linen cloths.

The custom of veiling crosses and icons during the last part of Lent has changed over the centuries. According to A. Adam in *The Liturgical Year*, in the 11th century a cloth, called the "hunger cloth," was suspended in front of the altar beginning with the fifth Sunday in Lent. At the beginning of Lent public sinners were excluded from Church. The "hunger cloth" may have been an acknowledgment that we all are sinners and are partaking in a "fast of the eyes."

By the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century statues, crosses and pictures were veiled. Pastor Wm. Durandus of Mende explained it by saying Jesus veiled his divinity during His passion and that the Gospel of the fifth Sunday of Lent ends by telling us, "Jesus hid and went out of the temple area" (John 8:59).

Later writers would tell us the veiling was to remind us of Jesus' humiliation and to imprint the image of the crucified Christ more deeply on our hearts.

A rubric used in churches following the traditional Western liturgy reads: "The practice of covering crosses and images in the Church may be observed . . . The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday. Images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

### **Baptisms!**

We rejoice with Steve & Rena Schwanz at the Baptism of their son, Caleb Albert on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, and with Dan & Ruth Dalman at the Baptism of their daughter, AnnaBella Renee on March 5<sup>th</sup>. God is good to our little flock!



### **Game Night!**

Bethany will host her monthly Game Night, Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7pm. We need volunteers to sign up & help.