



Today's altar flowers are donated by Gail Krause in memory of Wayne Krause.

Happy April Birthday Wishes!

4-Shirley Wright, 8-Aaron Hill, 11-Trisha Dunaway, 15-Nate Blakeman, 18-Sue Boyette, 23-Pat Parisot, 29-Inez Miller



We still have 3 tickets to see The Gaither Vocal Band Coronado Theater, Rockford Sunday, April 22 at 6pm \$25 each Sign up sheet is on the board!

Special recognition is given to Russell G. Scheibel for his many hours spent volunteering in our Fellowship Room & kitchen to bring us donuts, juice, and coffee after worship. Thanks for all you do "behind the scenes", Russell!



Out to Dinner is Friday, April 20th at 6pm at Jessica's Restaurant, 5091 Edgemere Circle, Roscoe. Sign up by Sunday, April 15th . Everyone's invited to join us!



We pray for the homeless, those unemployed and those with mental struggles, our shut-ins, our college students, military families & those serving in the military. We pray for our friends, families & loved ones: Aaron Hill, Alyson & Jarrett, Audrey, Aunt Bettie, Barb, Barry &

Shelby, Betty Bonner, Bill, Bob, Bonnie, Boyd, Cindy, Dawn, Debi, Denise, Diane, Don, Doris, Dustin Insko, Eloise, Florence, Gary, Gavin, Gene, George, Gere, Harriet, Heidi, Inez, Irene, Jaleena, Janet, Janie, Jean, Jeff, John, Jolynn, June, Karen, Kathy Mears, Ken, Kenny, Kevin, Kian, Kim, Kris, Larry, Linda, Lori, Lyla, Lyla Williams, Margot, Mary, Mary Kay & Family, Matt, Mike, Nan, Nancy S., Pat, Patti, Patricia Sarabia, Payton, Rachel, Rich, Ruthann, Sharon, Shirley, Steve, Tari, Ted, Ted Ziebath, Than, Tim, Tom, Tom & Gale Miller, Twanna, Uncle Weems, Vivian, Wayne, Zak, and Zoey.

This year, despite the cold weather, 33 children participated in this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Volunteers stuffed 100's of eggs! Thanks to them & all who donated candy for this fun event!



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ
Sunday, April 8, 2018
Second Sunday of Easter ~ 9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (Silence is kept for reflection.) Faithful and just God,
- C: **we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**
- P: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and Inspire you to live for others.
- C: **Amen.**



OPENING HYMN VERSES 1,2, and 5

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,
~~3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,~~
~~4 Nei-ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,~~
 5 Al-le-lu-ia! now we cry to our Lord im-mor-tal,



God has brought forth Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris-en.
~~with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-dor;~~
~~nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor-tal;~~
 who tri-um-phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por-tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters;
 All the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing
~~comes to glad Jer-u-sa-lem, who with true af-fec-tion~~
~~but to-day, a-mong your own, you ap-pear, be-stow-ing~~
 Al-le-lu-ia! with the Son God the Fa-ther prais-ing;



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.
~~wel-comes in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!~~
~~your deep peace, which ev-er more pass-es hu-man know-ing.~~
 Al-le-lu-ia! yet a-gain to the Spir-it rais-ing.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church.

We are happy to have you worship with us today! Please join us in our for beverages, snacks and conversation after worship.

Communion is by intinction. Come forward by rows to receive the bread with an open hand then dip in the wine (dark) or juice (light). Gluten-free wafers are available - just indicate to Pastor when it's your turn. If you eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You don't have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal ~ all baptized believers are welcome.

Offering ~ As always, if you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your **offering** next week. Or, if you'd like, mail it to the church office and write "offering" on the envelope to be included in that week's offering, seen only by the designated counters. Thanks for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work at Faith Lutheran.

Financials Sunday, April 1 - Week #13

Attendance - 180

Offering (includes Maundy Thursday)	\$4,224.25
Weekly Offering Budget	\$2,176.00
2017 YTD Actual Offering	\$32,761.39
2017 YTD Offering Needed	\$28,288.00
Easter Sunday Breakfast	\$236.00

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey
Computer Technician - Anne & Rachel Strasser
Offering Video - Anne & Rachel Strasser
Reader - Kathy Strasser
Counters - Roger & Carol Frey
Fellowship - —
Greeters - Tammy Dunkel and Tina Hatch
Musician - Betty Comins
Ushers - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



Even though it doesn't feel like spring and summer will ever come, preparations are made for the upcoming 2018 Brat Stand season. We look forward to YOUR help!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Choral Benediction"

May the light of God shine on us today.
May the light of God shine on us today.
May it show us where to travel,
lead us back if we should stray.
May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.
May the love of God live in us today.
May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.
May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace; serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* Almighty God,

C: with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

R: A reading from Acts, the 4th chapter.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 133

R: How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

C: It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.

R: It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

R: A reading from 1st John, the first chapter.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, in thee.
May we thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us, to thee our first-fruits give.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE LORD'S PRAYER (MODERN VERSION)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

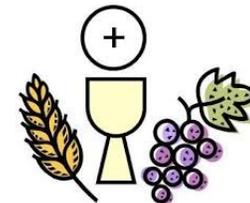
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

~ COMMUNION ~



P: Holy God, you create peace in the midst of chaos. Where storms rage and winds howl, bring calm. Protect people and animals from the dangers of weather. Restore damaged lands and homes. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, you are peace in a violent world. Heal neighborhoods ravaged by crime. Reconcile political factions at war. Build relationships where suspicion keeps us apart, and bring us to the day of unity.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, you bring peace to a hurting world. Fill the stomachs of the hungry. Bind up the shattered. Give rest to the weary and hope to the disillusioned. Restore the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, you breathe your Spirit of peace into us. Enlivened by the Spirit, equip us to bring new life to all we meet in our work and in our play. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, you are our peace in this world and the next. Comfort all who mourn (*especially*). Hold them in your tender care. Bring us all around the table as we share the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~
“Hold You Up” by Shane Harper

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“We Declare: Life in Christ’s Name”

Hymn of the Day

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-returns to life once more;
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence.*) Holy God, you speak peace in the presence of fear. Give us courage to testify to your grace with our lives. Embolden prophets, preachers, and teachers to speak your truth.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.