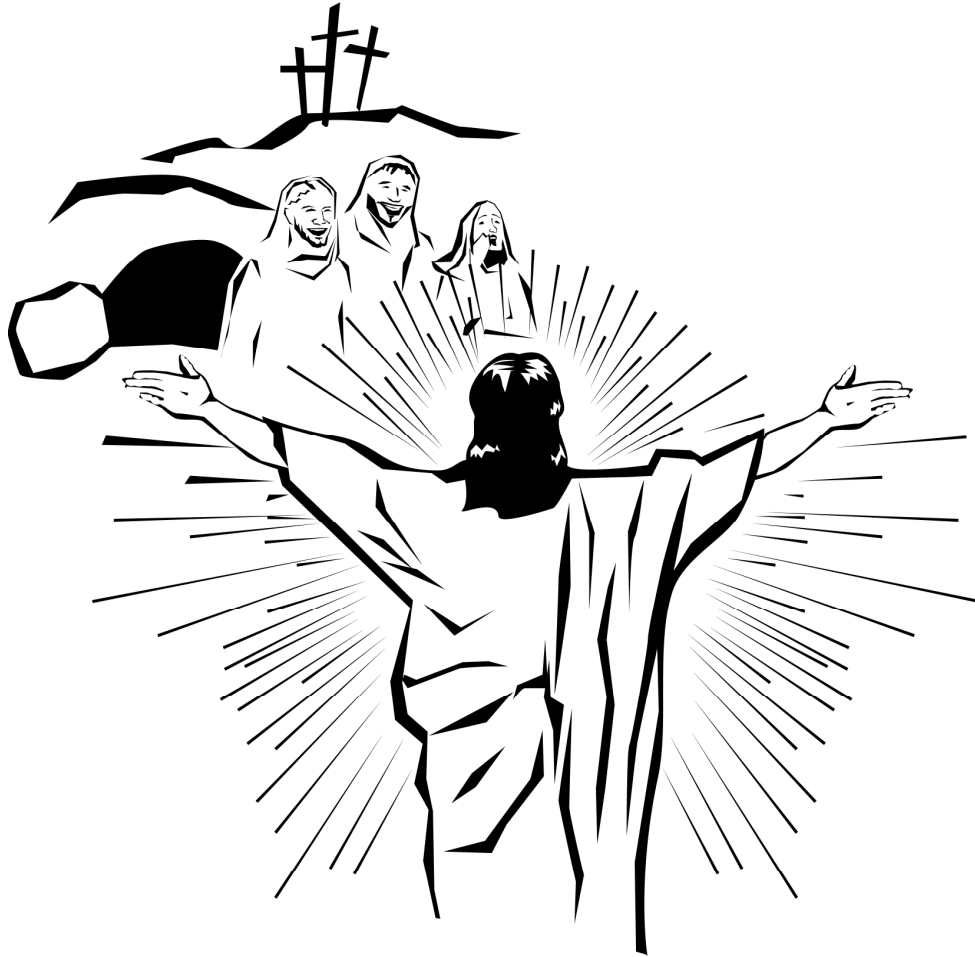


The Festival of the Resurrection

"He has risen, just as he said."



*"Growing God's Family in Christ...
One Step at a Time"*

Easter Festival

First German Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
(920) 684-0101 www.firstgerman.org
Rev. Benjamin Schaefer, Administrative Pastor
Rev. Maurice Hoppe, Visitation Pastor
Mr. Ryan Klatt, Principal



Welcome!

Welcome to this celebration of Jesus' Resurrection! Among the Sundays of the year, today has the greatest significance for Christians. On this day we celebrate the rising of Christ from the dead and the restoration of life to us who were dead in our sins. Without Jesus life is meaningless, hope is lost, and our future is empty. But Jesus said, *Because I live, you also will live!* Thank you for making us part of your Easter.

GUESTS: We consider it a privilege to worship the living Lord with you this morning. If you have any questions regarding our Sunday services, weekly programs, Christian day school, or pre-school please talk with one of the pastors or call the church office. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

- **A Cry Room** is located at the back of church for those kids who need a quiet moment.
- **Listening devices** are available from an usher for those who might desire some assistance with hearing today.
- **Friendship Registers** are found in each pew. We ask that everyone, both guests and members, sign the friendship register so that we might get to know you better.

ALLELUIA: Easter marks the return of the most joyous word in the Church's vocabulary: Alleluia! It means "Praise the LORD!" At the beginning of Lent seven weeks ago, the Church put that word away. Now that Christ is risen, the Alleluias return.

PASCAL CANDLE: Near the altar stand a powerful symbol: our **Paschal Candle** (from the Greek *pascha* meaning "Easter"). This candle symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It represents the Risen Christ who is with us always!

A Prayer Upon Entering Church: Almighty God, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. By faith in Jesus may we always rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory. Amen.

✠ The Order of Service ✠

CALL TO WORSHIP


The church bells ring.

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN #157

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
STAND 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
Praise e - ter - nal as his love,

Who did once up - on the cross,
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise him, all you heav'n - ly host,

Suf - fer to re - deem our loss,
Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

AN EASTER DIALOGUE

M: "Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed!"**¹

M: Let us rejoice and give thanks to God for the victory our Lord Jesus Christ won by his death and resurrection. Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. *2 Corinthians 5:15*

C: **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Psalm 118:17

M: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

C: **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

M: For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. *Ephesians 5:8*

C: **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and repentant hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sins and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

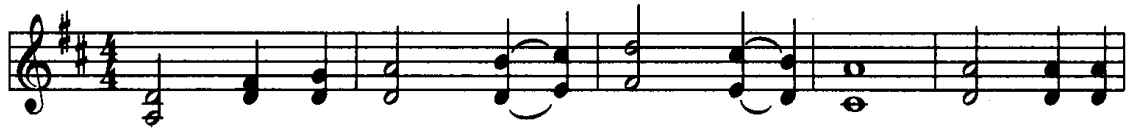
M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. You are at peace with God through Christ.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.


C: **Amen.**

1 This is known as the *Paschal Greeting*, one of the oldest and most wide-spread traditions in the Christian church. Throughout the weeks of the Easter Season, whenever the minister says to the people, "Christ is risen!" they automatically respond, loudly and boldly, "He is risen indeed!"


M: With the joy of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



All 1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort
Men 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.

3. (Women) He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

4. (All) He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV84)

The prophet Isaiah saw God's victory over death and calls on believers to feast on this good news.

- 6 On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines.
- 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
- 8 he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;
he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM

“I Will Not Die But Live”

Psalm 118

The CHOIR introduces the Refrain and then the congregation joins in singing it.

Choir: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Congregation:



I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Choir: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

The Lord's right hand is lifted high; The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!
I will not die but live, And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

C: I will not die but live, And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Choir: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

I will give thanks for you answered me; You have become my salvation.
I will not die but live, And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

C: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Choir: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad.
I will not die but live, And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

C: I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV84)

Christ's Resurrection from the dead means we now have LIFE with Him forever.

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Risen Up!

Sung by the Adult Choir

Early one morn-in' 'bout the break of day; Risen up, the Son of God!
A miracle happened when the stone was rolled away. Risen up, the Son of God!
Risen up from the gloomy grave. Risen up, our souls have been saved.
Risen up, to His Father He has gone. Risen up! Risen up!
Now a bright new day has come.

A vision of angels said the Jesus is alive; Risen up, the Son of God!
And ev'rything is true that has been prophesied. Risen up, the Son of God!
Risen up from the gloomy grave! Risen up, our souls have been saved!
Risen up, to His Father He has gone Risen up! Risen up!
Now a bright new day has come.

The women found the tomb as empty as their fears. Risen up, the Son of God!
Risen, arisen arisen, risen up, the Son of God!
Risen up from the gloomy grave! Risen up, our souls have been saved!
Risen up, to His Father He has gone. Risen up! Risen up!
Now a bright new day has come!

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY #720

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong
 2 No son of man could con - quer
 Women 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came
 Men 4 It was a strange and dread - ful

bands For our of - fens - es giv -
 death, Such ru - in sin had wrought
 down, His peo - ple to de - liv -
 strife When life and death con - tend -

en; But now at God's right hand he
 us. No in - no - cence was found on
 er; De - stroy - ing sin, he took the
 ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with

stands And brings us life from heav -
 earth, And there - fore death had brought
 crown From death's pale brow for - ev -
 life; The reign of death was end -

en. There - fore let us joy - ful be
 us In - to bond - age from of old
 er. Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
 ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says

And sing to God right thank - ful -
 And ev - er grew more strong and
 An emp - ty form a - lone re -
 That death is swal - lowed up by

ly Loud songs of al - le - lu -
 bold And held us as its cap -
 mains; Its sting is lost for - ev -
 death. Its sting is lost for - ev -

ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tive. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree—So strong his love—to save us.
 See, his blood now marks our door; Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**6 Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the bread of heaven;
 The Word of grace has purged away The old and evil leaven.
 Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed;
 Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

This important and historic Easter text is set to a new tune with the hope of reviving its use within the church.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.
 Tune: NORTHBRIDGE (87 87 78 744) Kermit Moldenhauer, b. 1949 © 2005 Kermit Moldenhauer. All rights reserved.
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SERMON

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Stand in the Easter Victory!

1. The Risen Jesus finds you.

2. The Risen Jesus frees you.

Following the sermon, please stand and sing.

HYMN # 160

This Joyful Eastertide

1. This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his threeday prison

Our faith had been in vain; But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen.

2. My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber

Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his threeday prison

Our faith had been in vain; But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen.

Be seated.

OFFERING

This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of First German Lutheran Church respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work. We also ask everyone to sign the Friendship Register located in each pew.

ANTHEM

“Worthy Is The Lamb“

Sung by the Adult Choir

Thank you for the cross Lord Thank you for the price You paid
Bearing all my sin and shame In love You came And gave amazing grace

Thank you for this love Lord Thank you for your nail pierced hands
Washed me in Your cleansing flow Now all I know Your forgiveness and embrace

Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne Crown You now with many crowns
You reign victorious High and lifted up Jesus Son of God
Darling of Heaven crucified; Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb!

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord of life, we praise you for Christ's victory over death and the peace which is ours through your saving work. Keep in faith all of us whom you have baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Drive sin out of all of our hearts. Strengthen us to resist the devil's temptations. Fill us with Easter life so that the world can see by our lives that you have given us life that lasts forever. In the name of our risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer and give us life.**

M: Lord of life, through your angel you invited the women at Jesus' empty tomb to tell Peter and the disciples about his resurrection. Give us hearts so filled with thanks that we do not keep the Good News to ourselves but tell it to the people in our lives and joyfully support the proclamation of the Gospel all over the world. In the name of our risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer and give us life.**

M: Lord of life, give your care and courage to pastors, missionaries, and teachers of your Word around the world. Wherever the message of your Son's death and resurrection is proclaimed, create faith in the hearts of unbelievers and bring them from death to life. In the name of our risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer and give us life.**

M: Lord of life, you promise to wipe away tears from all faces. We beg you to be with the sick, the injured, the aged, and everyone in need. [*Especially we pray for...*] Give them the peace that comes from having resurrection life in Jesus and, if you know it to be best, give them healing also. In the name of our risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer and give us life.**

M: Lord of life, we remember with thanksgiving and love those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and now await the resurrection of all flesh, [*especially ...*]. Keep us as you kept them that all of us, as your faith-filled people, may live forever in glory. In the name of our risen Lord,

C: **hear our prayer and give us life.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN #156

Awake, My Heart with Gladness

1. Awake, my heart, with gladness!
See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness,
Comes forth the glorious sun.
My savior there was laid
Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light
Our spirit wings its flight.
2. The foe in triumph shouted
When Christ lay in the tomb.
But lo, he now is routed;
His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free;
In glorious victory
He who is strong to save
Has triumphed o'er the grave.
3. This is a sight that gladdens
What peace it does impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
The joy within my heart
No gloom shall ever shake,
No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son
In love for me has won>
4. Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never
What e'er he passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's dark thrall;
I follow him through all.

Please stand.

PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the feast of victory which is ours through faith in Christ Jesus. Through your Word you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the feast of glory in heaven, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor ✠ and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN #158

I Am Content!

1. I am content! My Jesus lives again,
In whom my heart is pleased.
He has fulfilled the law of God for me;
God's wrath he has appeased.
Since he in death could perish never,
I also shall not die forever.
I am content! I am content!

2. I am content! My Jesus is my head;
His member I will be.
He bowed his head when on the cross he died
With cries of agony.
Now death is brought into subjection
For me, too, by his resurrection.
I am content! I am content!

3. I am content! My Jesus is my light,
My radiant sun of grace.
His cheering rays beam blessings forth for all:
Sweet comfort, hope, and peace.
This Easter sun has brought salvation
And everlasting exultation.
I am content! I am content!

4. I am content! Lord, set me ever free
And wake me from the dead
That I may rise forevermore to be
With you, my living head.
The chains that hold my body, sever;
Then shall my soul rejoice forever.
I am content! I am content!

Minister
Organist
Church Band

Pastor Ben Schaefer
Josh Wendt
Joel Ungemach and Josh
Wendt (directors) &
members of First German
Kevin Buch & Josh Wendt (directors)

Adult Choir

Thank you to everyone who served the Risen Lord today with your talents in music, service, decorating, and voice. Please take this worship folder home with you as our gift.

Brief Announcements for April 1st, 2018

Altar Flowers: In honor of our Risen Savior from Branches. Thank You!

Prepare the Heart: Take some time to prepare for worship by examining the readings for next week. They are Acts 18: 1-11, 1 John 1: 1-4, Luke 24:36-49.

Family Bible Hour: There will not be a Family Bible Hour today but will resume on Sunday, April 8th with Sunday School and the Adult Bible Class.

Church Office Holiday Hours: The church office hours this week will be Monday-Thursday 8AM-noon (closed Friday).

Ladies Bible Class: Ladies Bible Class will meet as normal this Tuesday April 3rd, but there will be NO class on April 10th.

Forward in Christ: The April edition of Forward in Christ is available by the ushers table.

Calls: Kelly Loberger has accepted the call to be our 1st and 2nd grade teacher. Please continue to keep her family in your prayers as they make this transition back to Wisconsin. This past week we also called Mr. Randy Peck to serve as our next principal. Mr. Peck currently serves as principal and teacher of Our Redeemer Lutheran School in Madison, Wisconsin. Please keep him and his wife Jessica in your prayers as he deliberates where best to serve the Lord.

Tuition Assistance: A reminder to all members of First German with children that are or are planning to go to Manitowoc Lutheran High or any WELS high school, there is some tuition assistance available. There is also assistance for children of members of First German that are attending college to become pastors or teachers in our WELS churches. All requests should be made in writing. Address the request to the Board for Stewardship, Attn: Gifts Coordinator/ David Lindemann and put it in **Box 269. Must be received by April 15, 2018**

Branches Meeting and Game Night: Branches will be having their annual meeting and a game night for high schoolers and above Saturday April 28th, here at First German. More information to come.

Easter Flowers

Donated by:

Elaine Paschke & Family
Jim & Judy Bieberitz
The Donald Knuth Family

Shirley Jacob
Gwen Polc

Ellen Strutz

Pastor & Mrs. Maurice Hoppe

The Family of...
Gerald & Donna Stecker

Steve & Dawn Johnsen & Family

Betsy & Clyde Sanders
Warren, Katie & Sam Knutson and
Jim & Linda Tisler

Ray Luisier

In Memory of:

Darrel & Elaine Paschke
Leonard & Marie Carstens
Herbert & Aletha Knuth and
Henry & Marie Koch and
Arthur & Ruth Freix
Hilda & Hebert Jacob
Frank Polc and
Herman & Berniece Draheim
Mr. James Strutz and
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Strutz and
Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Mahnke
Kevin Hoppe

Donald & Dorothy Franz
Walter & Margaret Bratz and
Ron Bratz and Patrice Bratz and
Earl & Joanne Stecker
Robert & Edith Luckow and
Kenny & Ethel Seefeldt
Fred & Jean Toltzman

Barb Knutson and
Art & Emily Kawalle
Diane Nelson and Clara Seibel
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Luisier Sr.
Mrs. Dolores Luisier and
Mr. & Mrs. Reihnard Meihnsner

Kathy Otto
Carmen & Jean Chizek
Lee Baryenbruch Family

Wendy Strutz & Family
Peronto Family
Jacky Breech
The Schwark Family

The David Reneau Family

Jim & Judy Bieberitz
Vila Belongia
Allen & Beverly Erdman
Mrs. Violet Engelbrecht & Kerry Theis

Linda & David Johnson
Ginger Schwarz & Family

Mike & Sue Mleziva and Family
Cathy & Paul Reynolds

Steve & Bev Falck
Joan Free
Keith & Pam Duveneck

Tom & Linda Jachimstal

Kenneth Korte, Dave Korte
Janice Chizek
Walter & Anna Winter and
Clarence & Anna Baryenbruch
James Strutz
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ligman
Corrinne Pierce
Louie & Lilian Zimple and Keith and
Walter & Johanna Schwark
Oscar & Margaret Lindemann and
Owen Reneau
Leonard & Marie Carstens
Ervin Belongia
Dolores Lenz
Wm. H Engelbrecht, Colton and Dually Theis
Andrew Reindl, and Joseph Engelbrecht
Frank Polc, and Bill Johnson
Chuck Schwarz, Carl & Phyllis Meyers,
Lynne Oyen, Noah Peplinski, and
Bernard Schwarz
Eugene Mleziva
Gerald and Elizabeth Sterrenburg,
M. Thomas & Louina Reynolds
Franklin and Grace Falc
Elaine Kuhl
Al & Carolyn Duveneck,
Ralph & Patsy Kamin
Ed & Marie Jachimstal,
John & Gladys Grapentine

Harrigan Parkside Funeral Home in memory of:
Elaine Paschke, Leroy Brouchoud, Carl Schwarz, and Elaine Kuhl

Reinbold & Pfeffer, and Jens Family Funeral Home in memory of:
Irene Rusch

Martin Luther on the Resurrection of Christ

“It was not necessary for Christ to die for himself, because he was born without sin and the devil had no claim on him. Moreover, he was Lord over devil and death, so that the devil did not dare to attack him. Christ might well have defied the devil and challenged him to touch one little hair of his head. ... No, we must view Christ in this light, that this dying and rising again were for your benefit and mine. As he died and lay under the sod as you and I must die and be buried, thus he also rose again for our sakes and made an exchange with us; as he was brought into death through us, we shall be restored from death to life through him. For by his death he has devoured our death, so that we all will also arise and live as he arose and lives... We must not let death and other misfortune, distress and misery, terrify us so. Nor must we regard what the world has and can do, but balance this against what we are and have in Christ. For our confidence is built entirely on the fact that he has arisen and that we have life with him already and are no longer in the power of death. Therefore let the world be mad and foolish, boasting of and relying on its money and goods; and let the devil rage with his poisonous darts in our conscience; ; and let him afflict us with all sorts of trouble – against all this our one defiant boast shall be that Christ is our Firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20), that he has initiated the resurrection, that he has burst through the devil's kingdom, through hell and death, that he no longer dies or sleeps but rules and reigns up above eternally, in order to rescue us, too, from this prison and death.” (From *Luther's Works* vol. 28:109-111)

Our Attendance in God's House: 487
(Wed Lent : 178+36 Thur: 29 Sunday 8:00: 121 10:30: 72 Hmong: 51)
Offerings to the Lord last week: \$9,562.30
Total given to Capital Campaign last week: \$ 3,892.11

Church Calendar

TODAY:

Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Service
7:30 AM Easter Breakfast
9:00 AM Festival Service
12:00 PM Hmong Divine Service
1:00 PM Hmong Easter Potluck-ALL invited

MONDAY 6:00 PM Hmong Ladies Bible Class

TUESDAY 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Class
6:00PM Starting Point Bible Class
7:00 PM Adult Choir (last practice)

WEDNESDAY 5:00 PM Public School Bible Class

THURSDAY 6:30 PM Word and Sacrament

FRIDAY 6:00PM Hmong Bible Study

SUNDAY 8:00 AM Word & Sacrament
(04/08/18) 9:20 AM Family Bible Hour
10:30 AM Word & Sacrament
12:00 PM Hmong Word & Sacrament
1:00 PM Hmong Bible Study

Serving the Lord as Ushers

Apr. 1 Easter Sunday

Sunday at 6:30AM: Randy Blattler, Don Knuth, Marty Shaller

Sunday at 9:00 AM: Randy Blattler, Greg Haupt, Aaron and Jacob Stecker

Apr 5/8

Thursday at 6:30 PM: Steve Falck

Sunday at 8:00 AM: Randy Blattler Team 1

Sunday at 10:30 AM: Randy Blattler Team 1

Our Vision for the Future: *Growing God's Family ... By Connecting to the Means of Grace.*
....By Connecting to Fellow Congregation Members
....By Connecting to New Faces.

A Member Congregation of WELS

The people of our congregation and the pastors who shepherd us and the teachers who care for the souls of children in our school are eager to serve you with God's Word. Feel free to contact us with your questions or to worship with us again soon. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

www.firstgerman.org

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Pastor Ben Schaefer (629.0628) - Pastor Maurice Hoppe, Visitation Pastor
Mr. Ryan Klatt Principal - Mr. Jeff Schwede, Executive Director (682-0728)*