



Dear Friends,
 Grace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is hard to believe, but it was Easter three years ago, that Darrin and I joined you all for worship and a “meet and greet” as part of the call process. The years pass quickly, but, thankfully, one reality remains constant. Jesus Christ is Risen! In this newsletter article, I want to share with you an Easter sermon from St. John Chrysostom, one of the “Fathers” of the church. It is as timely now as it was when it was delivered around the year 400.

Are there any who are devout lovers of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Are there any who are grateful servants? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!



Our Dare to Care Food Pantry continues to serve our community with vital food. In 2017 we served over 764 families, many of whom came every month for a regular allotment of food. Thanks to the generosity of the Council and the Willman Bequest, all of our volunteers were given the Opportunity to attend the annual Partner Appreciation Dinner. This year the dinner was on March 20 at The Crown Plaza Hotel across from the



fairgrounds. In spite of the snowy weather 22 of our workers Enjoyed a great dinner and a program emceed by Rachael Platt.





Anniversaries

9 Adrian & Michele France

19 Ted & Jackie Rosky



A 🎵 From David

We are now in the midst of the joyous season of Easter, the season of the church year celebrating Christ's resurrection. You may have noticed changes in our worship space. The paschal candle usually stands near the baptismal font but it will also be lit each Sunday of the Easter season. Its light represents the risen Christ, the light of the world, who leads us out of darkness. The paraments on the altar and the vestments worn by the worship leaders are gold and white, symbolizing the joy of the Resurrection. We have sung the beloved Easter hymn *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (ELW 365.) This stirring hymn brings back the Alleluia that was put away at the beginning of Lent. We have returned to singing the Alleluia in the Cantic of Praise (*This is the feast...*) at the beginning of our worship service. Even the Gospel Acclamation includes an opportunity to sing Alleluia once again. All of this combines with the earth's glorious spring renewal to celebrate Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life. ~~ **David**

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed Hell when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said, "You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below." Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar because it is mocked. It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see. O death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!

I wish you all and abundance of Easter joy!

Pax,

P. Austin



A Summary of the Church Council Minutes

- Former Director of LYG has left and the new director is Jason Pino.
- Average attendance to date (for worship) is 33 and year-to-date contributions is \$7,787.00.
- Patsy Heck reported that 2016 Audit is almost completed.
- Endowment members ask to stay on committee- Doug Hallman has agreed to stay.
- Installation of Council Members is April 8 with Big Breakfast.
- Council decided that Property Committee needs to address the issue of lights on altar (repair/replace them).
- The need for representative to Synod Convention -Lori Caron expressed interest.
- List for bringing snacks was distributed.
- Palm Sunday Brunch moved to April 8.
- Jim Lillie requested 2 new file cabinets for the office. Jim Blincoe will purchase at Staples.
- Pastor's housing allowance remains the same - \$18,000.00.
- Pastor stated there was a problem with the last group that stayed overnight. Council decided to limit overnight stays to church groups. It was decided that a contract would be drawn up and the adult of the group would sign before spending the night. A letter was drawn up by Caroll and signed by Vicky informing the Organizations that use the building that if a false alarm is called in - their group would be charged with the fine (\$100.00).
- Vacation Bible School: Lori Caron informed everyone that VBC would be in the mornings this year. She is meeting with Third Lutheran to work out the details.
- Annual Report: - We had one new member in 2017 (Kim Berko). report needs to be corrected.

- Visit and Outreach - 250 Easter pens will be handed out to visitors at the church service.
- Social Ministry. Patsy Heck, Elly Dwellen and Vaira Otvars are going to take communion and an Easter Lily to Virginia Kelly. There was \$750 approved to be given to the committee and 4 different ministries were approved at the March meeting. 'Meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Vicky Frank
Council President



We would like to wish the following people a joyous Happy Birthday and hope they enjoy their day!

- 6 Molly Dempster
- 8 John Gephart
- 11 Sharon Lillie
- 14 Ted Rosky, Wanda Schaffrick
- 15 Cassie McDaniel
- 16 Janet Gill
- 17 Henry Hallman
- 19 Blair Cecil
- 20 Kim Berko
- 24 Allison Wartschlager
- 25 Kim Peavey
- 30 Melody Sterling