



# APRIL

# The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter April, 2025

## Mark Your Calendars!

**April 2**— Midweek Lenten Service at 6:00 p.m.

**April 6**— Sunday Worship w/o Communion

**April 9**— Midweek Lenten Service at 6:00 p.m.

**April 13**— Palm Sunday Worship with Communion

**April 16**— Amazing Grace Interactive Family Worship at 5:00

**April 17**— Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at 6:00 p.m.

**April 18**— Good Friday Service at 6:00 p.m.

**April 20**— Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and Easter Morning Service with Communion at 9:00 a.m.

**April 27**— Sunday Worship w/o Communion

## Bible Studies at Church

**TAWG: (time away with God):** evening Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

**Ladies' Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

**Thursday Bible Study:** Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Morning Bible Adult Bible Discussion:** Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m.

## Miss something from the Sermon?

All of our worship services are livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website at:  
[www.orknoxin.com](http://www.orknoxin.com)



## Welcome!

To our April Church Newsletter! As we embrace the warmth and fellowship of our church community. We invite you to join us in worship and celebration as we continue our journey of faith together.

In the coming weeks, you can look forward to inspiring sermons, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities for fellowship. Our doors are open to all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. Whether you seek solace, guidance, or simply a place to belong, we invite you to explore the warmth and acceptance of our congregation.

Let's come together in faith, love, and service. Your presence and participation make our church family complete. Welcome home!

*Pastor Eric*



"In 2016, Barna's *Talking Jesus* survey reported that 22 percent of people in the UK think Jesus was a mythical figure, while 17 per cent are unsure whether he was real or not. If accurate, this means that nearly 40 percent of people in our society doubt the existence of Jesus, a staggering indication of how pervasive such ideas have become.

In an increasingly skeptical culture, the Christian can no longer assume that their non-Christian friends are on the same page as them when it comes to the existence of Jesus, much less his claims to divinity."

That was a poll in the United Kingdom nine years ago. American religious trends tend to be about five years (+/-) behind Britain, which means that we can safely assume that those figures are in the ballpark for the U.S. Those are staggering numbers, representing actual people who believe that Jesus is just a mythical figure.

Well-known biblical scholar N.T. Wright, when asked for the one thing he would show a sceptic as evidence for Jesus's life, pointed to his death, saying "The crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth is one of the best attested facts in ancient history. If we take Jesus out of the world of first-century Palestinian Judaism, there are a thousand other things that we simply can't explain. All sorts of evidence point back to the certainty of this figure, and particularly his crucifixion."

Of course, as Christians, we can't talk about the death of Jesus without immediately talking about the resurrection of Jesus. The two go together. So, what is the evidence of Christ's life, death, and resurrection? Is there anything outside of the Bible and Christian tradition that provides proof the he lived, died, and was raised?

Join me on Sunday mornings after church as we investigate the "*Evidence for the Resurrection*." We'll draw on Biblical, historical, and archeological material to answer the questions, "Was Jesus as real person?" and "What evidence is there that he died and rose again?" Sunday mornings from 10:15—11:15a.m. beginning April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday); meeting for four weeks.

# Meeting Minutes from March 9th Voters' Meeting

Voters' Meeting – 3/9/2025

Meeting opened in prayer led by Pastor Eric

1. Transfers In – Darlene and Jim Harshman
2. Board of Elders – Mel Lenig – no recent meetings; one scheduled for this week with 7 new Elders
3. Board of Outreach/Parish Nurse/Smiles – Sharon Krick – they cleaned out many things in the Evangelism Room
4. Board of Trustees – Phil Hamand
  - a. Parsonage Projects: Pastor's bathroom was completed – total cost \$29,412 with a budget of \$30,000; a new refrigerator was also purchased as the old one broke down
  - b. Handicap toilet by the preschool needed repair, as it was running too slow and using too much water. Wendy Hopp made repairs
  - c. East entrance doors (by preschool) were replaced. All four doors had hinge replacements, since the old ones were rotted
5. Treasurer's Report – Char Geisler
  - a. Jan/Feb Expenses = \$60,057.58
  - b. Char pointed out a few things on the Treasurer's Report
- i. Maintenance Expenses of \$52,500 includes parsonage bathroom remodel, from the 2024 budget
- ii. Miscellaneous Expenses: \$665 was from a soil test on Schwartz farm because crop production was down. Brad Hazelton advised that this was normal and a good idea; also included trailer license plate renewal
  1. Bruce Zimmerman asked why the church paid for the soil test because it was his understanding that the farmer was responsible for that cost. Dave replied that Brad said it was normal for the ground owner to pay that expense
  2. Karen Zimmerman asked if the church has say in what is added to the soil for increased crop production. Dave clarified that the farmer would be required to pay that cost, if he added fertilizer/ etc.
- iii. Building Rental – includes the rental of the parking lot, which was pre-paid for the whole year
6. Little Lambs Preschool – Elaine Browne
  - a. Registration for next school year opened up 3/1/2025 and there are only 1-2 spots open
  - b. Preschool just had a jungle-themed production and activity centers – a bigger event for the winter
7. Pastor's Report
  - a. Worship
- i. All services are planned and written through Easter. The Sunday theme – Walking the Hard Road When Faith is Challenged
- ii. New purple paraments are out
- iii. Diane is working with youth for Easter Sunday program, and a special Holy Week family service planned for 4/16 at 5 p.m., an interactive service for the whole family, with a taco bar

- iv. There are 4 people doing Children's Messages on Sundays, and some of the youth are interested in helping Sharon run the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings
    - b. Baptism planned for 3/16 – Sara Ann Downs, a preschool student (Sharon Krick's great-granddaughter)
    - c. Bible Study – Thursday group just started Exodus after completing Genesis; Sunday morning group is looking at major denominations with great attendance; Diane leads two per week, as well
    - d. Confirmation – The experiment with "homeschooling" wasn't successful. A "classic" confirmation will start Wednesday from 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. taught by Pastor and Diane
    - e. VBS – committee has met to start planning. Registration will be online. Theme will be "superhero faith". Each day will discuss what a superhero needs and how it relates to Jesus
    - f. Ministry Plan – Pastor hopes to get back to it now that he has a full board of elders. "A Closer Walk" Bible Plan seems well received and used by many members of the congregation
    - g. Staff is reading "Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations that will Help Your Congregation Grow". Pastor would like to cover it at a leader's workshop after Easter.
    - h. Pastor is going to meet with the boards individually since the orientation meetings were cancelled due to weather. He will go over the board's job description, expectations, training and planning regular meetings
    - i. Food Pantry – Pastor mentioned what a great impact it's having in the community. They've been averaging 100 people visiting per month. Pastor wanted to recognize them to the congregation and thank them. Just the other day, the pantry received a call from a couple who hadn't eaten in four days, and the pantry was able to get food to them.
  - 8. Youth Report – Dave Geisler (since Diane was teaching Sunday School)
    - a. Youth Group for middle school/high school is 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. There are a few good movies coming out with Christian messages, as well as a passion play at Michiana Event Center. Diane is going to try to take the youth to those things to help celebrate the Easter season. They will also serve Easter breakfast to the congregation
  - 9. President's Report – Dave Geisler
    - a. Jeff & Shirley Fosler are requesting easement on property adjacent to the church's farmland to build a new facility for their farm equipment. Because the building is going to be a little larger than zoning allows, they have to ask permission from the church. We see no need to dispute the request
    - b. Valpo University College of Engineering Scholarship – The Starke County Community Scholarship Foundation sent a report that the balance is a little over \$75,000, with a "spendable value" of \$32,000, but we haven't had an applicant in years
    - c. The council agreed to provide written reports prior to meetings to make the meetings more effective/efficient.
    - d. New church constitution was approved by the District, but there have been some changes since the approval
  - i. Approval is needed for description of Inreach-Outreach Committee
    - 1. Approval motioned by Phil Hamand; seconded by Bruce Zimmerman
    - 2. Motion passed by congregation
  - ii. Marcia Olson asked if the constitution allowed for a woman to be congregational president. Dave clarified that it does not
- 10. Old Business – Dave Geisler - None
  - 11. New Business – Dave Geisler – None

Dave closed the meeting in the Lord's Prayer

## Special Days in April

Palm Sunday-**April 13**

Maundy Thursday-**April 17**

Good Friday-**April 18**

Easter-**April 20**

Earth Day-**April 22**

Administrative Professionals Day-**April 23**



## Earth-shaking Victory!

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing:

“While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The

God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

“Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity.”







We invite you to join us on **April 16th at 5:00 p.m.** for an Amazing Grace Interactive Easter Worship Service for all families. There will be Legos, songs, videos, family discussions, and a gift for each family to take home. We'll also have a taco bar and beverages for everyone to enjoy. We ask that you please register for this event by calling the Church Office or signing up on the "What's Going On at ORLC" bulletin board. We look forward to celebrating with you!



Please join us after our Easter Sunday Worship Service for our annual Easter egg hunt! Parents if your children plan on participating please send them to the Family Life Center so they can be instructed as to where their age group may hunt! Baskets/ Bags for eggs/candy will be provided!

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Youth Group will be getting together on **April 13th** and **27th** this month. On April 13th (Palm Sunday) the youth will be going to see the movie King of Kings at the theater. Renowned writer Charles Dickens shares the story of Jesus Christ with his son, Walter. As his father narrates the stirring tale, Walter becomes captivated with the events of Jesus' life. Parents will be given more details of that day by Diane.

Adventure awaits you this summer at Camp Lutherhaven! Race your friends in a kayak, make a craft out of things found in nature, or gaze up at the starry night sky. There are so many activities at Camp Lutherhaven the only question is 'What one will I try today?' There are programs for all ages: youth programs for K-12, family programs, and Servant Events for grades 8-12. Camp has something for everyone! Register online today at [www.lutherhaven.org](http://www.lutherhaven.org), or call 206-636-7101 for more information.



## April's Acolyte Schedule

Miles Fraser	April 2nd
Emma Brammer	April 13th
Neva Balaszek	April 20th
Hudson Hazelton	April 27th



## April's Event Calendar



### Holy Week Schedule as Follows

Amazing Grace Interactive Worship Service for families at 5:00 p.m. Taco bar and refreshments will be provided for our hungry attendees!

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service at 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you all there as we follow Jesus' footsteps during Holy Week and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Easter Celebration.

This year, our Sunrise Service will be held in the Sanctuary, starting at 7:00 a.m. and concluding around 7:30 a.m. Following the service, join us for our Easter Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. We hope you can be part of the Sunrise Service, but if not, we will also have an Easter Morning and Communion Service beginning at 9:00 a.m. We look forward to celebrating with you at either service!



Please join us on Easter Sunday right after the Sunrise Service for Breakfast! The youth will service and clean up after the meal so all you have to do is bring your appetite!

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the "What's going on at ORLC" bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to sign-up to make a donation items towards the meal! We hope to see everyone there!



## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The **Craft and Bake Sale** has been cancelled due to a lack of interest. We hope to reschedule it for some time in the future. In the meantime we hope that you will continue to support the Food Pantry by collecting your UPC barcodes from all your favorite **Our Family brand products** and using your

### **Kroger Community Rewards.**



ORLC Food Pantry is participating in the Our Family® Direct Your Labels program, and we hope you will help us as we collect UPC barcodes from all your favorite Our Family brand products. <sup>TM</sup>

Each time we collect 500 UPC barcodes, we can turn those labels into \$25 for our Food Pantry. And with more than 1,800 retail grocery stores across the country participating in the program, it's easy to turn Our Family labels into cash for our Food Pantry!

To participate in the Direct Your Labels program, simply clip and save the UPC barcode on every Our Family® brand product you purchase at . For every 500 UPC barcodes we collect, we will earn \$25 from SpartanNash, the company that makes and distributes the more than 2,000 Our Family® brand products with national brand quality at a lower price. With your support and your labels – we'll be raising money to purchase food.

There will be a drop off box in the Fellowship Hall for your labels. If you aren't able to drop your UPC barcodes off in person, you can also mail them to ORLC Food Pantry, Attn: Erika Large, 1600 S. Heaton St., Knox, IN 46534. We do need original Our Family® labels to earn the \$25, so please no photo-copies.

Thanks to the Direct Your Labels program, we can raise money for the Food Pantry as we shop for our groceries each week. Start saving those UPC barcodes! We'll continue collecting them throughout the year.

Sincerely, *The Food Pantry Committee* <sup>TM</sup>

## *Kroger Community Rewards*

**For any questions about the Food Pantry Please contact either:**

**Erika Large, Food Pantry Administrator @ 269-449-4506, Kim Emmons, Fund Raising Coordinator @ 574-298-6488, or Marcia Olson, Goodwill Ambassador @ 574-249-2756.**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Food Pantry has become a member of the "Kroger Community Rewards Program". Now, when you shop at Kroger's and use your

Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate cash to our account, it will cost you nothing. Instructions to Attach ORLC to your Kroger Plus Card:

Download the app or sign into your account on Kroger.com

2. Create an account if you don't already have one
3. Go to the Account Tab
4. Scroll down to Community Rewards
5. Open Community Rewards Every
6. Choose and add Our Redeemer Lutheran Church:

**Organization number: RQ856 .**

Every three months Kroger will notify us of our balance and pay us when the balance reaches \$25.00. Funds will roll over to the next quarter if funds have not reached the \$25.00 amount.



Jennifer Enger	April 1	Kimberly and Mike Redlin	April 15
Braxton McGinley	April 1	Linda Bachert	April 22
John Wilson	April 1	David and Charlene Geisler	April 24
Hudson Hazelton	April 2	William and Gina Scherf	April 24
Jana Hazelton	April 4	James and Vicki Mick	April 27
Danielle Franks	April 6		
Margaret Koch	April 6		
Joseph Oliver	April 9		
Rebecca Wirebaugh	April 9		
Emily Waters	April 11		
Florian Janasz	April 13		
Ryan Michel	April 16		
Denise Doig	April 18		
Barb Gretter	April 18		
Cathy Brown	April 19		
Ivyl Wallace	April 19		
James Witkins	April 19		
Kelsey Wolf	April 23		
Marcia Olson	April 26		
Charlene Geisler	April 27		

HAPPY EASTER!





**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**1600 S. Heaton St.**

**Knox, IN 46534**

**[www.orldcknoxin.com](http://www.orldcknoxin.com)**