



ST. PETER'S

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation



April
2018

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April Fools' Day

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

(1 Corinthians 1:22-25 NIV)

This year Easter falls on April 1st—April Fools' Day. For centuries people have reserved this day to play pranks on others or to get them to believe some made-up story. To many in the world, the biblical account of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection from the dead is nothing but a tall tale that only a fool would believe. This is nothing new. In the Apostle Paul's day, the message of the crucified and risen Christ was rejected by Jews and Greeks alike. To the Jews, a Messiah who was slapped, beaten, spit upon, scourged, crucified, and buried did not live up to their Messianic hopes. They were looking for a mighty, majestic, divine Messiah who would rise up in power and overthrow the Roman Empire, resurrecting the nation of Israel as a free nation whose might would be matched by no other. And so the message of Christ crucified was a stumbling block for them.

Not only did Paul share the gospel of Christ crucified with Jews in the city of Corinth, but also with Greeks. Remember, the Greeks put a high premium on worldly wisdom. Greek culture had produced the greatest philosophers in history—Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, among others. It is said that in Paul's day, there was a philosopher on every Corinthian street corner claiming to have the answers to the world's most pressing questions. When Paul came and claimed to have the key that unlocks the mystery of life and eter-

nal life, they thought he was nothing but a fool. After all, who would ever believe that God became man in the womb of a virgin in order to live under God's law in place of a twisted and corrupt mankind? It's preposterous to believe that such a God-man would live a perfect life, die an innocent death on the cross, and rise from the dead on the third day. After all—we know that once a person is dead—that's the end. Nobody comes back from that! Just as Christ was a stumbling block for the Jews, so also he was foolishness to the Greeks.

“But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” It is only the good news of Christ crucified that can conquer hearts steeped in unbelief, for the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. Through the preaching of the gospel the power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed, causing hearts that once considered a crucified and risen Savior to be foolishness and a stumbling block to become hearts that rejoice in the message of sins forgiven through the crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Who would have ever believed it? The foolishness of the gospel is wiser than man's wisdom, because only the gospel delivers from death and damnation—something that man's wisdom can never do. Christ's weakness on the cross is stronger than man's strength. Why? Because all of man's power and might cannot conquer death, but Christ's “weakness” displayed through his death on the cross conquered death. His resurrection from the dead proves it. Unbelievers think that we are fools for believing it. But sadly, in the end, the “joke” will be on them—because only fools for Christ will be saved. So on this April Fools' Day, remember that the message of the crucified and risen Christ is no joke. Rather, it is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

1-Apr	6:00	Lois Klobucher & William Brasch
	8:30	Ken & Jo Wendorff
	10:30	Gib & Ann Trewin and June Kartos
8-Apr	7:45	Warren & Mary Demmon
	10:30	Lorin & Rose Orvis
15-Apr	7:45	Gene & Judy Zwicky
	10:30	Tom & Joan Mrazek
22-Apr	7:45	Bonnie Baerwald
	10:30	Jerry & Diane Fricken
29-Apr	7:45	Gordon & Justine Port
	10:30	Dewayne & Marilyn Zamzow

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

April 1 - 15	April 16 - 30
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Joan Voss
Mary Demmon

Sue Repp
Mary Scheidt

For details on flower donations, look for our flower chart on the bulletin board at the end of the member mailboxes.

Cleaning Schedule

Week of:	
April 1	Girl Pioneers
April 8	Tom & Mark Deibert
April 15	Tom & Mark Deibert
April 22	Tom Butzke
April 29	Bruce & Else Cuppan



Please call Gregg at 923 - 1583 to become a member of the "cleaning team".

Membership Matters

The matters of membership listed below were acted upon or recognized by the Coordinating Council at its March meeting.

Adult Confirmations

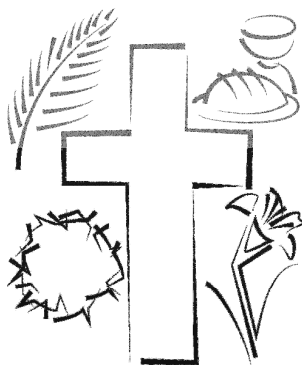
Kevin Ferderer

Baptisms

Jaxon Fisher
Damian, Alayna, & Aria Oelke

Transfer Out

Ron & Carol Bartlett to Bethlehem, Oshkosh



Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 25 ~ Palm Sunday
Thursday 6:30, 7:45 & 10:30

March 29 ~ Maundy Thursday
3:30 & 6:30
with Holy Communion

March 30 ~ Good Friday

Communion Service
1:00
Tenebrae Service
6:30

April 1 ~ Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 6:00
Festival Service
8:30 & 10:30

NURSING POINTS OF INTEREST

Cataracts

What Are Cataracts?

A cataract is a progressive, painless clouding of the natural, internal lens of the eye. Cataracts block light, making it difficult to see clearly. Over an extended period of time, cataracts can cause blindness. They're often related to growing older, but sometimes they can develop in younger people.

How Cataracts Affect Your Vision

In a normal eye, light enters and passes through the lens. The lens focuses that light into a sharp image on the retina, which relays messages through the optic nerve to the brain. If the lens is cloudy from a cataract, the image you see will be blurry. Other eye conditions, such as myopia, cause blurry vision, too, but cataracts produce some distinctive signs and symptoms.

How Are Cataracts Diagnosed?

Most cataracts can be diagnosed with an eye exam. Your eye doctor will test your vision and examine your eyes with a slit lamp microscope to look for problems with the lens and other parts of the eye. The pupils are dilated to better examine the back of the eye, where the retina and optic nerve lie.

Tips to Prevent Cataracts

Things you can do that may lower your risk of developing cataracts:

Don't smoke.

Always wear a hat or sunglasses in the sun.

Keep diabetes well controlled.

Limit alcohol consumption.

All information obtained from WEB MD Reviewed by Brian S. Boxer Wachler, MD on December 20, 2016

TUITION ASSISTANCE THANK YOU

Dear Members of St. Peter's,

Thank you for the generous gift of money to help my tuition payment and continued prayers. I am greatly enjoying MLC in my Junior year and am looking forward to my call as that day gets closer and closer. I have just finished up my clinical semester where I taught second graders once a week for ten weeks. This experience strengthened my desire to become a teacher and teach Christ's little lambs. Time is sure flying but your prayers and gifts over the years have been constants in my life. It is truly a blessing to have such a supportive congregation while training for the ministry. May the Lord continue to bless your year.

Your Sister in Christ,
Kari Freiberg

2018 International WELS Youth Rally

The Youth Rally will be held June 26th-29th in Ohio; at Bowling Green State University, home of the *Falcons*. What a great opportunity to spend a long weekend in worship and activities with 2,500 other WELS teens from across the nation and world!

The cost for the Youth Rally is about \$550 per teen for the four day event. To make sure every St. Peter's teen can go who wants to go, we are looking for members to sponsor a teen or partially sponsor a cost. If you are able and willing, please speak with Pastor Guse.