

## **THE SERVANT**

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ron Voss, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\***April 2017**\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Servants of Christ,

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me.: Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, COME AND SEE.*

John 1:43-46

As I knock on a door, I first introduce myself, holding our informational brochure in my hand. I point to it and then ask the question, "Do you have a church home?" If the answer is yes, I thank the person for their time and then leave. If they hesitate, ask a question or continue the discussion in any way, I then give the person a copy of our newsletter, the pamphlet outlining the plan of salvation, the brochure explaining the work of The North American Lutheran Church. If there is continued interest, I ask for an email so I can send follow-up information. I close the conversation by saying, "Come and see" . . . Come and see if we could be a place where they could hear the Gospel and grow in faith.



My hope and prayer is that each person—whether through the preaching and teaching of our congregation or another Christian congregation—will see Jesus Christ is the Messiah and follow Him in faithful devotion throughout their lives.

I encourage you to invite a friend, neighbor, or relative to "come and see." Pray for those you invite that the Holy Spirit will work in each life.

In Christ's love,  
Ron



**Palm Sunday**, April 9, begins the final week of Jesus' life. We will celebrate with palm branches, music, Scripture, and prayer.

**Maundy Thursday** worship, April 13, will be held at 6:30 at the home of Lyle Gerdemann. Jesus shares the Passover with His disciples and institutes the Sacrament of the Altar which we will share at our service.

**Good Friday** worship is April 14 . . . also at 6:30 . . . also at the Gerdemann home. Jesus invites us to come and mourn, as the Lamb of God dies for the sins of the world.

Easter, April 16—**the Resurrection of our Lord**. This is the high holy day of the Christian Church. We shout Alleluia knowing that because He lives, we, too, shall live. Worship will be followed by an Easter brunch which will incorporate our bi-monthly meeting.

Be faithful in worship this special week in the Church year.

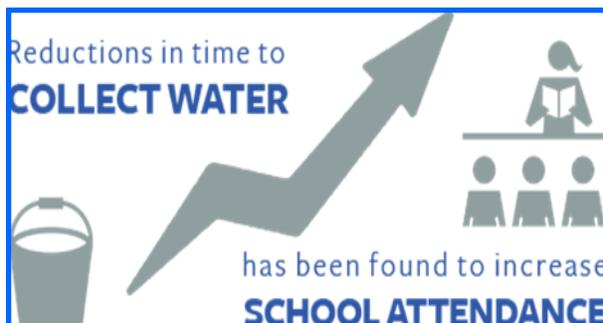
Our final mid-week Lenten service is Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30, at the home of Lyle Gerdemann, 855 White Pine Circle, Robins. We appreciate Lyle opening his home to us throughout the Lenten season and during Holy Week. We will conclude our reading of the Passion History as well as our sermon focus on the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Please purchase one or two **lilies** and bring to worship on Easter as we celebration the news, "He is not here; he is risen."



### Lenten Offerings Designated for Water Mission

**Water Mission** is a nonprofit Christian engineering ministry providing sustainable safe water solutions, through a Christian worldview perspective, to people in developing countries and disasters. We approach all our work with a sense of urgency and a commitment to excellence. Our faith and our believe in the sanctity of life compel us to develop and implement the best technologies available to serve those in need. Visit [watermission.org](http://watermission.org).



# E A S T E R Images and Words

**Easter:** The English word Easter is borrowed from the name of a pagan spring festival and is related to the fact that the sun rises in the east.

“He is risen!” and the reply, “He is risen, indeed!” are the most ancient—and always new—shouts of Christian people at Easter. “Jesus Christ is risen today . . .” is the same shout in the form of well-known Easter hymn, a Latin carol from the 14th century, which was set in English by Charles Wesley in the 18th century.



**Alleluia:** a Hebrew word meaning “Praise the Lord,” which appears in the New Testament as part of the grand victory celebrations in the book of Revelation (chapter 19).

**White** is the color for Easter’s joyous celebration, although gold often accompanies white as the color for Easter Day and the following week.

**Butterfly:** The butterfly, emerging from its tomb-like cocoon, symbolizes Christ emerging from His empty tomb.

**Easter lily:** Of course the Easter lily is one of the most common signs of Easter with its heavy (funereal?) fragrance and trumpet-like appearance. This flower, shaped like the bell of a trumpet announcing victory, grows from a seemingly dead bulb which is buried in order for it to grow and bloom.

**The crown** is an Easter symbol that refers to our Lord, crowned as the triumphant Lord of life, and to the “crown of life” awaiting each of us.

**The Easter (paschal) Lamb of God** is now pictured, no longer in sacrificial death, but standing proudly with a victory banner.

## April Servants



Greeter/Usher: Ray Collins  
Communion Assistant: Leann Arnold  
Snacks:  
\*\*April 2—Mary Collins  
\*\*April 9—Lenor Heckart  
\*\*April 16—Easter Brunch, Ron Voss  
\*\*April 23—Tami Gerdemann  
\*\*April 30—Ron Voss

## Tag Along??

If you would ever like to go with Ron as he does door-to-door canvassing, let him know. You do not have to say anything, just observe the process.



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## Offerings, Gifts, and Outreach

March Mission Giving - \$250 was sent to the General Fund of the North American Lutheran Church. \$500 was sent to Trinity Lutheran Church of Warrenton, Virginia.

**Sidebar:** Trinity of Warrenton has a passion for the Word of God. God's way of communicating with us is through the Bible. This means that if we want to understand God's plan for our lives, we must be immersed in His Word. Every time we read the Bible, we see it anew and understand that it has a direct message for us that is relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. The Bible is at the center of Trinity's mission. Trinity's music for each Sunday is selected to support the Scriptures read in worship. For more information of this Word-centered, mission-minded congregation, go to its website [trinitylutheranva.org](http://trinitylutheranva.org).

Friends of Madagascar Mission is our outreach focus for the month of April. Our 2017 spending plan includes \$1000 for FOMM. Rev. David Lerseth, director of FOMM, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, May 7, to update us on the work of FOMM. We look forward to his message.

**Sidebar:** *FOMM Mission:* to assist the Christians and Churches in Madagascar to strengthen their ministry and mission in reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. *FOMM Purpose:* to assist the Christians and Churches in Madagascar; to strengthen and build up Christ's witness for its people; to bring glory to Christ, the Lord of the Church, and not to us. *FOMM Governance:* FOMM is a non-profit, incorporated organization with a board of directors. The Rev. David P. Lerseth, Gurnee, Illinois, is the president of the board. *FOMM Projects:* Our projects have been selected by the Church in Madagascar as urgent needs: Prison Ministry, Ejeda Hospital, Bible Schools/Evangelists.

[www.MadagascarMission.org](http://www.MadagascarMission.org)

## Church Building Update

Each month when I pay the rent to the City Clerk, Lori Pickart, I check on the progress of Robins' closing on the land/church purchase on the south side. Work is still being done to update the abstract, and the city is frustrated with how long this is taking. Hopefully this will be concluded in the coming months. We could then begin worshipping in the church facility on Sunday morning.

We continued to be thankful for our present worship/study area at the City Hall and for the kindness and support city officials have shown us in the past year.