

THE SERVANT

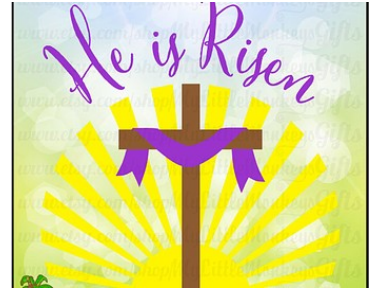
The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

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 2019******

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me (Paul).

1 Corinthians 15:3-8



Dear Servant of Christ,

The empty tomb is a puzzle. When the women came upon it, all it did was to raise questions in their minds. What had happened? Who took the body? Why is it gone? When the two disciples who were making their way back home to Emmaus heard the story, all it did was create confusion in their minds. What could these women have seen? What could be this vision of angels they said they saw? What did they mean by saying, "Jesus is alive"? None of it made any sense to them. It was only when Jesus encountered them—the women at the tomb, the disciples on the road, or the apostles in the upper room—only then did they come to faith. Apart from the encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, everything was confusion and puzzlement.

Yet, our faith is not about puzzles and secrets. It is about a person—Christ Jesus—who died on an open hillside in the sight of hundreds . . . who was buried in a prominent place, in the tomb of a rich man . . . and who rose and appeared to hundreds more. None of this happened in a corner, out of sight. But it took place in the open, to be proclaimed to the whole world. Those who try to portray Jesus' resurrection as some wild story concocted in secret and foisted on a gullible world simply have not

taken the time to read the accounts of those who have borne witness to what they have heard and seen. Those who regard the resurrection as the figment of some fanatical group's imagination simply have not wrestled with the evidence presented in the lives and history of those who were willing to suffer and die for what they proclaimed as true: Jesus, who was dead, is alive!!!

As followers, ourselves, of this Risen One, it is our task, as well, to be witnesses to the resurrection in the world today. We are to be witnesses to what has been handed on to us. We are to be witnesses to the presence of Christ Jesus as we encounter Him today in our worship and fellowship. We are to be witnesses today as we live in the faith and confidence of our Lord in everything that we face in life. We are to be witnesses today by sharing the joy of the resurrection, by following our Lord's path of service and love.

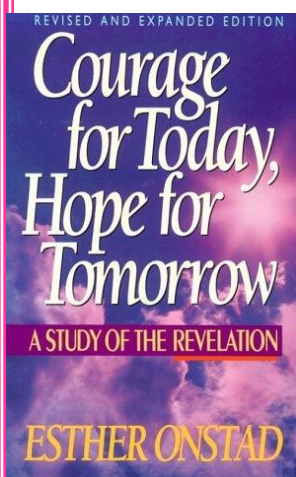


**Pastor Marshall Hahn, Dean, Iowa
Mission District, NALC**

Reprinted from the May 2017

Iowa Mission District News

Is the *Book of the Revelation* a mystery to you? Have you wished you could understand it? Perhaps you have hesitated to delve into it because you could not grasp the meaning of its strange language and symbols. The Revelation to John, the last book in the Bible, abounds with symbols: trumpets, scrolls, beasts, wings, plagues, white robes, and crowns. Can this book really speak to US?



Esther Onstad's book, "Courage for Today, Hope for Tomorrow," is an excellent Bible study on the Revelation. The author explains the symbolism that depicts the conflict between God and Satan and the victory of God's people. The focus of the Revelation is the **victorious Jesus Christ who vanquishes every enemy and who will bring a new heaven and a new earth**. Re-read that bold type again because that *IS* the bottom line for all believers.

We look at the world, we read the news, and shake our heads and become discouraged. So, what better way to begin a new year than with hope and courage . . . both of which are found only in a risen, ascended, victorious Savior.

We continue our study of this book through April



Mid-week Lenten Worship Services, 6:30 pm

Home of Lyle Gerdemann
855 White Pine Circle, Robins

Tuesday, April 2
Tuesday, April 9

Maundy Thursday, April 18
Good Friday, April 19

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Focus on SIN: The Seven Deadly Sins

SIN is: revolt against God

SIN is: humankind casting God's restraints to the wind

SIN is: the violent quest for unrestrained freedom which subordinates God's will to self will.

In this mid-week sermon series, we will examine SIN as our human condition and then look at the specific sins of **Pride**, **Lust**, **Gluttony**, **Greed**, **Laziness**, **Wrath**, **Envy**.

Looking at sin as our human condition and as specific acts will remind us of the love and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. His sufferings and death alone puts us right with God. "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear."

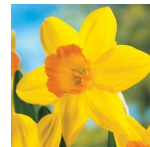
Make your Easter truly meaningful by walking the road to Calvary.



You are encouraged to bring a lily, tulip, hyacinth, or daf-



fodil to worship on Easter, April 21, to celebrate the risen Lord.



April Servants

Greeter/Usher: Judy Waugh
Communion Assistant: Cliff Waugh

Snacks:

**April 7—Mary Collins

**April 14—Tami Gerdemann

**April 21—Ron Voss

**April 28—Water Mission potluck

Flowers: Mary Collins

Called to *Serve*



Water Mission will be the focus of our April 28 potluck. Plan to attend.

Water Mission is our Lenten mission outreach project. Midweek offerings and any special gifts donated on Sunday will go to **Water Mission**.

Water Mission provides safe water and sanitation solutions in more than 55 countries. Headquartered in North Charleston, S.C., **Water Mission** has over 250 staff members working around the world in permanent country programs located in Africa, Asia, Latin American, and the Caribbean.

Brief updates will be provided throughout Lent on their outreach efforts.

Pray for their work. Give generously.

April Outreach is directed to the North American Lutheran Church General Fund: \$417.

Lenten offerings and designated gifts will be directed to Water Mission.

Outreach Visitation Day is Saturday, April 27. We will gather at the Robins City Hall at 9:00 am, then go into the community to invite people to worship and study with us. We will share the good news of the resurrected Christ.



Easter Images

WHITE is the color for Easter's joyous celebration.

BUTTERFLY - The butterfly, emerging from its tomb-like cocoon, symbolizes Christ emerging from His empty tomb.

CROWN - This refers to our Lord, crowned as the triumphant King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It also symbolizes the crown of eternal life that awaits all believers.

LILY - The flower, shaped like a bell of a trumpet, proclaims the victory of one who was dead but now lives.

ALLELUIA - This Hebrew word meaning "praise the Lord" is included in the grand victory celebrations in the book of Revelation.

