

## **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 2020*

### **Jesus Goes Ahead of Us**

Dear Servants of the risen Christ,

Easter is not just a day, but also a season. It is the center of the Church year and our life together in Christ. The gospels relate the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Think the resurrection of Christ is too good to be true? Jesus' repeated appearances, to as many as 500 followers, validate the event. In the midst of life's tragedies, disappointments, and our own failures, we hear the words, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" And we have hope and joy.

Mark's account of the resurrection states, "The angel told the women, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, **He is going ahead of you** into Galilee. There you will see Him.'"

The book of Hebrews talks of Jesus as the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith. Pioneer. One who goes ahead. One who cuts the trail. One who beckons us to follow. Jesus came, He taught and loved, He suffered, He died, He arose. But He is not done. He goes ahead of us. He doesn't wave "bye bye" from the tomb and wish us well. He goes before us (and behind . . . and along side). Jesus hung around 40 days after His resurrection. And then He left to return to the Father. But NOT before promising the gift of the Holy Spirit: Jesus alive and living in our lives throughout our earthly journey.

Jesus goes ahead of us . . . . in joys . . . . in sorrows . . . . in uncertainties . . . . Even in election years. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He reigns and loves eternally, Whatever we face, He has already faced and endured. And so, in confidence, we can go forward because He is going ahead of us. His final words to His disciples? "Lo, I am with you ALWAYS." ("I go ahead of you.")

Going forward with you,  
Ron

## Creating Unity Through Living Water

Because the Church is called to be God’s primary agent for transformation in the world, *we intentionally focus our Living Water ministry on collaborating with, and building up, the local church.* Working with the local fellowship of believers promotes the long-term success of our work by allowing us to address emotional, relational, and spiritual needs along with the physical ones.

In 2019, Water Mission brought together pastors from different denominations in Honduras to organize and execute safe water and sanitation initiatives. In Malawi, we partnered with Ruth’s Shawl to train 170 pastors, local leaders, and community members on Biblical principles. In Peru, safe water commissioning ceremonies became venues for interdenominational cooperation—events where various churches presented songs, dances, skits, and prayers.

Our mission to end the global water crisis is an undertaking we know is enormous and incredibly urgent. Through collaborations with like-minded partners like you, we believe we can bring safe water to the *2.1 billion* people around the world that currently lack access.

### **It’s Not About Me** by Max Lucado

Sunday morning class, continuing through April

What would change if we finally found our place . . . and lived it? For our entire lives we’ve been urged to look out for number one. To find our place in the sun and soak it for all it’s worth. To make a name for ourselves as if we are the headliners in life’s drama.

But what happens when the sweet life we imagined proves to be sour? When our expensive toys break and our work is no longer needed and our bodies grow soft? What’s next when all our efforts to take care of number one leave us feeling unsatisfied and the thrills we were promised turn up empty?

Best-selling author Max Lucado turns the greatest lie we’ve believed on its head . . . The one that says, “It’s all about me,” and he sets our sights on a different goal. What would happen if we all took our place and played our parts? If we started living like “Son” reflectors rather than individual stars and suns? If every person’s priority became a divine pursuit, not a performance?

The God-centered life works. And it rescues us from a life that doesn’t. Here is your lifeline to a life of purpose. Grab hold and let the rescue begin!



### Flowers for Easter



*You are encouraged to bring a lily, tulip, hyacinth, or daffodil to worship on Easter.*

## April Servants

Greeter/Usher: Lyle Gerdemann  
Communion Assistant:

Richard Drake

Snacks:

\*\*April 5—Mary Collins

\*\*April 12—Judy Waugh

\*\*April 19—LaDonna Retzlaff

\*\*April 26—Brunch

Flowers: Mary Collins

Called to  
*Serve*

### April Mission Giving

NALC General Fund—\$500

North American Lutheran Seminary—  
\$1,000

Lenten offerings directed to  
Water Mission

### Outreach Visitation Day

Saturday, April 18, we will meet at Robins Hall at 9:00 am, then go into the community to invite people to worship and study with us.

## Lenten Outreach Projects

\*\*50 Bibles will be purchased and donated to NALC Disaster Assistance.

\*\*Supplies for Health Kits will be purchased during Lent and assembled on Maundy Thursday.

\*\*Financial Donations received at Lenten worship will go to Water Mission. (Read more about Water Mission in this newsletter.)

**Final Lenten services** will be held at the home of Lyle Gerdemann, 855 White Pine Circle, Robins. Services are at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 31.  
"Road Signs to Calvary"



April 9, Maundy Thursday

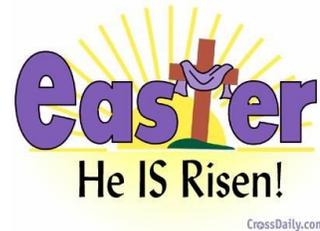


April 10, Good Friday  
"Road Signs to Calvary"

## 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.

