
ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

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Reflections on Christ's Death and Resurrection

In 2020, what relevance does Christ's death and resurrection have for us? Is it just an old, old, familiar story? Is Christ present with us today? Do you have a personal relationship with Him? What does Christ require of us? Is there any need for action on our part?

These are just a few of the questions I pondered when reading the death and resurrection story in John 18 through 20. I believe that we need to think about what He suffered and the trials He endured for us and how Scripture was fulfilled.

Isaiah 53, which was written long before Christ's suffering and death, is fulfilled. It is a grim reminder of the beatings, floggings, spitting, yelling that he endured prior to his journey to the cross. It is not an easy read, but becomes powerful when we realize that Christ fulfilled this prophecy. He did it for us. I cannot begin to understand the love that God and His Son had for us.

Once Jesus's body was laid in the sealed and guarded tomb, the disciples and followers must have experienced real fear. They had no idea what might happen to them, of if the story ended at the tomb.

Mary Magdalene, upon finding the tomb open and Christ's body gone, ran back and reported it to Peter and John, who in turn went to the tomb. Impetuous Peter went straight into the tomb. John and Peter returned to the other disciples and followers, but Mary "stood outside the tomb crying." She saw two angels where Jesus's body was laid. Jesus appeared to Mary and comforted her. Mary's task was to "go and tell."

That day is still our task. Go and tell what knowing Christ has done in your life. Have a relationship with Christ so that you recognize His voice and He recognizes you. Salvation, through our belief in Christ, is God's response to us. Only through grace are we saved; we cannot earn favor with God but we must believe.

My prayer would be that you desire to know this Risen Christ and have a deep, personal relationship with Him and that you would cry out His task for us "to go and tell."

Some questions to ponder upon reading John 18-20:

1. Would you, like Peter, deny Christ if you feared for your personal safety?
2. Would you have helped Jesus carry His cross?
3. Would you have mocked Christ as the Roman soldiers did?
4. If you were in agony and on the cross, would you be concerned about the care and welfare of others?

I would invite you to join me on this journey of learning who Christ is, having a close, personal relationship with Him, and repeating my daily prayer, "change me." Let's "go and tell" and be prepared to be transformed. Oh what a Savior!

Dates

April Birthdays

2 — Jerry Sigler
4 — Sarah Hathaway
5 — John Daniel, Joyce
Krumma
11 — Lauren Moeller
12 — Matt Deckard, Rod
Knox, Ashlyn Reese

April Birthdays

13 — Alison Rynearson
14 — Lorrie Daniel
20 — Russ Hoff
21 — Trace Meschberger
24 — LeAnn Hillabrand
27 — Jarrett Reese
30 — Rex Bergdall

April Anniversaries

26 — Wayne & Sue Burdick
30 — David & Diann Hines

Prayer Requests

Church Members

Jon Hillabrand, Ruby Tuttle, Peter Jungk, Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

Friends of St. Mark's

Jane Wacker (her Great-Granddaughter), Vince Konieczki (Tony Konieczki's brother), Pastor Kraus & JoAnn, Tim Smith (John Martin Smith's son), Steve Hill (Tony Konieczki's brother-in-law), Brent McCollough (Len McCollough's son), St. Albans Episcopal Church, Norman Willoughby (friend of John Foell), Paul Marlow (community member)

Shut-ins and Homebound Members

Mary Lu Kain, Joanne Ruger, Richard Bowerman, Ella McClellan, Maxine Mason, Jean Yoder, Noel Flannigan

**Prayer Requests will be kept on this list for two months, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to add a new request or update us on the status of a person currently on the list, please contact Kathy Fribley in the office.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Closing

St. Mark's Church office will be closed due to the "Stay Home" order until our state government lifts their order. This will be reviewed on April 7. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Rod Knox at rod.knox510@gmail.com or call 260.235.0276. If you prefer, you can leave a voice message on the church answering machine and messages will be reviewed. Communication is essential during this time of separation.

April Message

Our St. Mark's family is experiencing challenges that many of us were unable to predict. We knew as we began the new year that we were facing a new chapter in ministerial leadership. How would we respond? Well, St. Mark's was blessed with Dan and Jon as they lead us during worship and advised us on how we should proceed using God as our focal point. We were positioned to experience the journey of Lent and the resurrection, but our journey took a detour with the Coronavirus. How would we respond? Our family rallied together to provide another of ministry which was several months ago unimaginable for us. Today, we are using a virtual ministry reaching into our homes and sharing the talents of our family. Our next challenge has not been identified, but together we will respond with the spirit and optimism that will carry us through the remainder of this unpredictable time.

Offering/Gifting

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused an economic downturn throughout our country. Governor Holcomb's "Stay Home" order complicates our ability to perform our ministry in a traditional setting. However, St. Mark's expenses continue with salaries, utilities, insurance, and other costs. We hope you are still able to gift whether by check or electronically through our webpage site (www.stmarksauburn.com). The financial status is being closely monitored. Your gift will be greatly appreciated.

St. Mark's and April 2020

The COVID-19 virus has caused us to revise events daily and what was planned in February and March are changing. It appears that we will not be able to assemble as a congregation for most of April and possibly May. So, we need to plan accordingly. Here is a list of events that have impacted:

April 1 - Lenten Service presented on our Facebook Page Live at 7:00 p.m.

April 4 - Church Workday (9-12) ** Happening at this time- keeping our social distance outside St. Marks projects- stay tuned?

April 5 - Worship Service presented on our Facebook Page Live at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Week

April 9 - Maundy Thursday Service on our Facebook Page Live at 7:00 p.m.

April 10 - Good Friday Community Service -7:00 p.m. via Auburn Presbyterian website

April 11 - Saturday Easter Vigil - Prayers at home

April 12 - Holy Easter Service presented on our Facebook Page Live at 7:00 p.m.

April 14 - Church Doctor Oral Report – Postponed until further notice

April 19 - Worship Service presented on our Facebook Page at 9:30 a.m.

April 26 - Worship Service presented on our Facebook Page at 9:30 a.m.

Reminder: Please have any announcements for the newsletter to Kathy by April 24th.

3 Calls Per Day

During this time of isolation, we are encouraging each member to make three phone calls a day to members, neighbors, or family who may need some assistance in obtaining groceries, medication or some help. This is a great opportunity to reach out and build our relationships with our church family and community.

Tech Super Stars

When posed with a problem, how do we react? Our tech team used their knowledge and an attitude of adventure and fearlessness to implement our virtual ministry. Using Facebook and our website to communicate to our congregation and community, we have been able to spread the "Good News". Special thanks to: Connie Myers, Vicki Marhenke, Barry Tilghman, Melanie Carlin, and Jason Atkinson (Church Doctor associate) for taking our ministry to the next level.

St. Mark's Virtual Ministry

Spiritual motivation can be found on our Facebook page (St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Auburn) or our web page (www.stmarksauburn.com). Jon Hunter is providing a daily devotion from his home and Laura Deckard is providing a hymn of the day. Thanks to each of them for providing such a wonderful spiritual message!

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study is currently cancelled until further notice. Thursday Morning Bible Study continues every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Bring your Bible and join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Bible Study is currently cancelled until we have services again.

Now Hiring-Preschool Subs

We are looking for some paid preschool subs who are willing to sub when we have a staff member out. If you are willing to be a substitute when needed and able, please contact Linda.

Prayer Team

The Prayer Team are members who volunteer at Prayer stations when you have completed Communion. We would like to continue this service but we need more people to assist. Give it some thought and pray. If you are interested contact Jayne McClellan at 925-2157 or 927-5811.

Grandparents & Caregivers Support Group

Every 4th Tuesday of the month, from 6:30-7:30pm at the Heimach Center (1800 E 7th St., Auburn) there will be a support group for custodial grandparents and grandparents who often care for their grandchildren. If you would like to come and need childcare, please contact Amanda and Rita at 260-357-3333.

Opportunities to Serve

Preschool Volunteers:

We are looking for individuals willing to volunteer in the preschool as we continue to grow. It does not require a lot of effort and is a great way to minister to our community on your schedule. Contact Linda Vandemark if interested.

St. Mark's Facebook

Check out our Facebook page at [stmarksauburn](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksauburn). Check - like, and click - share. Communicate our activities and events to our community.

Prayer Chapel

Prayer Chapel is currently cancelled until further notice.

Thrivent and St. Mark's

St. Mark's is asking members if they belong to Thrivent; if you do—St. Mark's could be eligible for \$250 donation from Thrivent for projects such as cookouts, Bible School and church dinners. Please notify Kathy how we can work with Thrivent and you. We appreciate Thrivent's support of church ministries.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

First, I'd like to thank the people that sent cards to our mother in the nursing home. Thank you to Pastor Dan for the lovely service. To the council and congregation, thank you for the card, a lovely thought.

God Bless you all, The family of Betty Saunders

Dear Friends,

Hope this finds you doing well. These are most extraordinary times with the Coronavirus. It is so strange and is affecting our entire world. I keep informed of the news in the U.S. while I pray for you. Imagine - whole states being locked down, sports without fans, wearing masks, etc. I pray that you keep safe and have peace.

Here in Kenya things are not so bad (few cases) and hope it stays that way because if it hits here, it would be awful. So many don't have clean water to begin with or access to good medical care and with the cultural ways of close living, oh my. But so far the government is taking measures to inform, educate and protect people. Of course limited travel and social distancing is started. Hand sanitizing is the rule. The crowded matatu's (large vans) which are a main means of public transport everywhere have been ordered to cut in half the

number of passengers. Heart to Heart staff are staying home. Schools closed means for us, that orphaned and vulnerable children are often sent home where there is little or no food, so we need to find a way to get food to them, I think. I am helping Collin's family where the 4 children are now home with the grandmother who has no job, a situation of many... even in the U.S. I imagine. Trying times.

We must all hang in there and stay safe for the sake of one another and the world. Today has been declared a day of prayer in Kenya, so extra prayers are being said. Please join us in prayer. Most of all, no matter what, our Lord God is with you wherever you go.

Peace and love to you, Kathleen

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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St. Mark's

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships
Transforming Lives**

St. Mark's Messenger is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Kathy Fribley

Church Secretary

Linda Vandemark

Preschool Director

Our Mission: To bring about transformation in individuals, families, our community, and the world through Jesus Christ