

ST. LUKES EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS), Pickwick, MN

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Service Schedule: Thursdays: 6:30pm / Sundays: 9am w/ Bible Study at 10:15am

April 5, 2026



Welcome to our Guests!

Thanks for joining us on this special day! We are gathered here to be strengthened in the faith through the Word of Jesus, the Son of God, who came to forgive & save us.

If there is anything we can do to better *serve* you, please let us know.

Pastor Steven Neumann's Contact Information

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Musicians

Connie Hagedorn

Kris Swogger

The Festival of Our Lord's Resurrection: *Easter Morning*

THEME OF THE SEASON: What Difference Does Easter Make?

Today We See That: The Empty Tomb Assures Us that God *Accepted* Jesus' Payment for Sin; SIN Truly Was ***FINISHED*** / *paid for* as Jesus said on Friday!

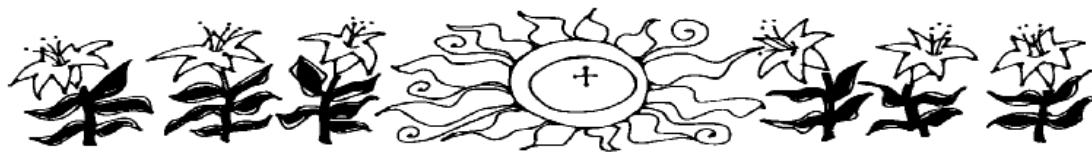
WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THIS FESTIVE MORNING

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Sinners should fear God. Sinners ought to die for their wickedness. The grave should be the place of ultimate defeat for mankind. Yet on this day, the Second Adam did all that the first Adam had left undone. Bearing our guilt and suffering our verdict, the Son of Man died; but three days later he rose in triumphant glory. As a result, fear is gone, mankind is redeemed, and Christ calls us his own brothers and sisters forever!



SYMBOLISM FLOWS INTO REALITY

During the season of Lent, our *Alleluias* are muted as the joy of our worship is replaced with the sorrow of our sin. But with the news of Jesus' resurrection, we once again praise God with our "Alleluias," represented by the *Alleluia* on our altar paraments. There is no greater truth in Christianity than the death of Jesus Christ for the salvation of sinners. As we enter our sanctuary for worship, we look upon the cross in confident faith, knowing what our Savior accomplished there. For it is 'by his wounds that we are healed.' Lutheran worship is filled with symbolism. However, this symbolism flows into reality — the reality of sins forgiven, the reality of Christ's body and blood given *in with and under* the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, and the reality that Jesus Christ ***has*** risen from the grave!



Easter Sunday

Service Theme: The Empty Tomb Proclaims Our Redeemer's Victory Over Death!

Choir Song: CW21 #451, *See What A Morn*, by Getty & Townsend; the congregation is invited to join in on v. 3 as it is projected on the wall

Opening Hymn: #157, *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*, v. 1-4

Opening Words of Praise

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Almighty and eternal God, Lord of life and of death, Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is, we praise You this day for what You have done!

C: **This is the day You showed Your great power, and raised Your Son, Jesus, from the dead.**

M: Gracious God, we thank you for the many faithful witnesses who speak to us in Your Word, and testify that the Lord Jesus is risen indeed.

C: **If Christ had not been raised, their witness would be false, and our faith would be worthless. But they saw the risen Lord, spoke with Him, ate with Him, and touched Him. They were faithful witnesses to the world, just as their Lord was a faithful witness to them.**

M: We will proclaim Your wonderful works from one generation to another.

C: **Father, You have restored the joy of salvation to us by raising Your Son from the dead. With *happy* hearts, we come and joyfully worship You!**

Hymn of Reply: #162, *He Is Arisen! Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;

The gates of heav'n are open.

My Jesus did triumphant die, And Satan's arrows broken lie,

Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.

Oh, hear - What cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious,

Life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

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The Resurrection Foretold

The Fact Foretold - Psalm 16:8-11

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest

secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (NIV84)

Our Response: #143 *He's Risen, He's Risen, v. 1*

**He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.**

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The Manner Foretold – Jonah 1:7-2:9

Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" "Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased."

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O

LORD my God. "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." (NIV84)

Our Response: #143, *He's Risen, He's Risen*, v. 4

**Oh, where is your sting, Death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**

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The Meaning Foretold – Job 19:25-27

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (NIV84)

Our Response: #143, *He's Risen, He's Risen* v. 5

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.**

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Confession of Faith – The Explanation of the Apostle's Creed's 2nd Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord. He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the Devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He has risen from the dead, and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

The Resurrection Reported

At the Empty Grave – Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come & see the place where he lay. Then go quickly & tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So, the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "*Greetings,*" he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "*Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.*" (NIV84)

Our Response: CW21 #460, *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven, v.1-3*

- 1. Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.**
- 2. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient pow'rs of evil in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship & adore.**
- 3. Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the triune Majesty!**

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On the Road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about 7 miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself

came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "*What are you discussing together as you walk along?*"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"*What things?*" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "*How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?*" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. (NIV84)

Our Response: #145 *Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won, v. 1&5*

**Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me.
Jesus lives-death's reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate to life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: "Jesus is my confidence!"**

Our Thank Offerings

Visitors: We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Please don't feel obligated to give an offering. **ALL:** Please introduce yourself to those worshipping around you.

The Resurrection and Me

My Confidence in Life – 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (NIV84)

Our Response: #152, *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*, v. 1-4

My Confidence in Death – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; & if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless & so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either; & if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the 1st fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (NIV84)

Our Response: # 152 *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*, v. 5-8

My Encouragement to Look Heavenward – Colossians 3:1-4 (*read responsively*)

M: Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above.

C: **Where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.**

M: Set your minds on things above,

C: **Not on earthly things.**

M: For you died,

C: **And your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

M: When Christ, who is your life, appears,

C: **Then you also will appear with Him in Glory!**

Our Response: #149, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, v. 1-3

Sermon Text: **Zechariah 8:19-23** This is what the Lord Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.” This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.’ And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him.” This is what the Lord Almighty says: “In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’” (NIV)

Sermon by Pastor Neumann on Zechariah 8:19-23

“Fasting Gives Way to Feasting!”

Our Response: #149, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, v. 4-6

The Responsive Prayer of the Church for Easter Morning

M: Heavenly Father, God of grace, you have brought us into a new and living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

C: Christ is risen!

M: For as in Adam all died, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C: He is risen indeed!

M: He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.

C: Alleluia!

M: We marvel at the love you showed by your willingness to sacrifice your Son to pay for our sins; we bow down in adoration at your mighty power, which raised him from the dead.

C: We praise you for sending the true Life and Light into the world.

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death and the grave.

C: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

M: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and removed our guilt.

C: You are risen!

M: Dear Savior, we who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

C: You are risen indeed!

M: Take away our doubts and fears, and daily renew in us the joy of our salvation.

C: Alleluia!

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel and brought us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

C: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

M: Keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

C: He is risen!

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ.

C: He is risen indeed!

M: Work through us as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call, obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, and join us before the throne of our God and of the Lamb.

C: Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns! Alleluia. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Blessing *(Hebrews 13:20-21)*

M: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, bought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn 341 v. 1&4 Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns For he is King of all.**

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An Easter Thought: In Egypt are the vast pyramids; inside them once rested the bodies of the Pharaohs. In Red Square in Moscow is the tomb of Lenin, where the body is still displayed under glass; although it was recently reported that over time the body has turned a red color, the filters keep the people from noticing it. In a coffin in Mecca in a mosque lies the dust of Mohammed. In a golden urn in Ceylon lies the remains of Buddha. They are all still there.



Somewhere in Palestine is the spot where Jesus once was laid. It doesn't make any difference now where that spot was ... because not a speck of Jesus remains in the grave. **HE IS RISEN**; and that changes everything! It also ought to show us all Who is truly worthy of our life-long trust, obedience, and praise!!

(from the Mission Counselor Newsletter, April 1995, p. 15)

This Week at St. Luke's:

Wednesday: Family Bible Study Resumes 6pm at Swoggers (near church at 23371 Lamoille Rd). A main dish supper will be provided & participants are asked to bring a dish to pass **if possible**. After supper, we'll study together: Idols I Never Knew I Had, a 19 minute bible study from NPH. These sessions will meet every other Wednesday night, and are for fellowship, fun, and food for body and soul. All are welcome! Join us!

Thursday: Worship, 6:30pm

In our Entryway, please help yourself to:

Keurig Coffee & Hot Chocolate

Meditations (devotion book), "Forward in Christ" & MLC's "In Focus" Magazines, & Church Calendars for the month.

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St. Lukes of Pickwick accepts the Bible as the inspired inerrant Word of God. We believe that God created the entire universe in six natural days out of nothing by his almighty Word. We believe that humankind fell into sin and is totally corrupt, dead in trespasses and sin, and doomed to hell. We believe that God out of love for us humans sent his own Son who became human, lived a perfect life in our place, and suffered eternal death for us. We believe that God the Holy Spirit uses this Gospel message in Word and Sacraments to create faith in us and thus make Jesus' saving work ours. St. Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church is a gathering of Christians that exists to teach and preach the Word of God in all its truth here among us and to all the people of the world, and to worship God and serve our neighbor in love as Jesus calls us to. We'd love to have you join us at St. Luke's! Speak with Pastor Neumann about membership.