

The Resurrection – More than a Doctrine”

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

—1st Corinthians 15:20

A Sunday School teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, she asked: "And what do you think were Jesus' first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?" A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted out excitedly, "I know, I know!" "Good" said the teacher, "Tell us, what were Jesus first words." And extending her arms high into the air she said: "TA-DA!"

There's no record in Scripture that Jesus said, "TA-DA!" when He arose, but this much we do know — there were hundreds of people who saw Jesus after His resurrection. Imagine with me for a moment if we had each person that witnessed the resurrected Lord come to Holy Emmanuel this Easter and talk for 15 minutes, giving a testimony to what they saw. If we listened to the testimony of all the people that Jesus appeared to, we would be here all day, and all night, and Monday day and night and Tuesday day and night and Wednesday day and night and Thursday day and night and sometime early Friday morning they would just be wrapping up the testimony. It would take over 128 straight hours just to hear, for 15 minutes each, the testimony of those that saw the Lord after He rose.

This means, among other things, that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ happened! The resurrection is a historical event that is well documented by both eye witnesses and the testimony of Scripture. Therefore, the events of Easter cannot be reduced to a creed or philosophy. We are not so much asked to believe the doctrine of the resurrection. We are asked to meet this Savior raised from the dead. In faith, we move from belief in a doctrine to knowledge of a person. Ultimate truth is a person. We meet him through Word and Sacrament and answered prayer and through the circumstances of life and the people we meet. He is alive! And the moment after you take your last breath on earth you're going to meet Him face to face in heaven! *I cannot imagine anything more exciting and wonderful than that!*

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, we're reminded of the fact that our Savior understands how difficult life in this sinful world can be. As we follow Him to the cross and the tomb, we're struck by the tragedy of it all. And yet there is a sense in which the Friday our Savior died was "Good" because it was on that day that He removed the veil of sin which had separated us from our heavenly Father. Out of great tragedy has come great victory! Yes, life is hard, but Easter serves to remind us that the best day of our lives is yet to come! May this season of Lent and Easter to follow be an opportunity for you to once again draw near by faith to the One who gave His life so that we might live.

Serving Him with you,

Pastor Dennis Starr



Open Arms News

We want to thank all of you who supported us at our Spaghetti Dinner in March. We will be purchasing new cots.

This past month, our staff attended the Concordia Conference. It was a great experience for all to learn more of how to teach Jesus' Little Lambs.

This month we will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. We will be having many fun activities such as Sports Day, Chapel with Pastor, making a snack with our grandparents, Bike Day, and having lunch with Mom and Dad.

On Maundy Thursday, April 9th, the Open Arms children will be singing at our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please join us to hear the kids sing, and for refreshments afterwards.

Each month we are teaching our kids a new Bible verse. The April Bible Verse is:

"He is risen – He is risen indeed!"

From all of us at Open Arms, we wish all of you a blessed Easter!

May the risen Christ be with you always!
Natalie Mylander

Couples in Christ Progressive Dinner

You are invited to join the Couples in Christ group for their annual Progressive Dinner on Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Host homes are still needed for the salad course and main course.

For more information, please contact Natalie Mylander at (952) 881-3764 or (925) 888-2345.



Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

- **Master Plan** (Led by Pastor Starr in the Chapel).
- **"Becoming New in Christ" Study of Romans** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room).
- **Youth Bible Study** (Led by Robert Melde in the Youth Room).

1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings Couples in Christ

- **"Building a Marriage That Really Works"**

3rd Monday Evenings Monday, April 20th

5:30 p.m. – Supper
6:00 p.m. – Bible Study

- **Parenting Class – "Discipline"** (Led by Randy Marko)

Tuesday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

- **"Angels"** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

Wednesday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

(Will meet beginning April 15)

- **Video "Bad Girls of the Bible"** (Led by Candy Frein in the Accounting Room)

Thursday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

- **"The Road to Coronation"** (Led by Frank Schadewald in the Accounting Room)

To help us celebrate the true meaning of Easter we will be having our annual Egg Hunt/Resurrection Party on Saturday, April 4th, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon.

We are always looking for donations of candy, prizes, or pop. Please leave your donations in the box in the church narthex. Cash donations are also welcome.

Be sure to invite your friends and family!

On Sunday, April 5th, our Sunday School kids will be going to Martin Luther Manor to bring some Easter cheer by passing out gifts we made for the residents.

From all the kids we wish everyone a very blessed Easter. May the Risen Lord be in your lives and hearts forever.

In Our Risen Savior's Name,
Natalie Mylander

Youth News

Thanks to all of our teens and their parents who made our craft boutique very successful!

Our next event is Friday, April 3rd. We will be meeting at the church at 5:00 p.m. for supper, fill eggs for the kids egg hunt, followed by some activities. I hope all of you can come and join us.

I am very proud that even though our youth group may be small, they continue to be active in their faith and strong for the Lord!

May you all have a blessed Easter!

In Christ,
Natalie Mylander



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9th

Worship at

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion



GOOD FRIDAY

April 10th

Worship at

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



EASTER

April 12th

Worship at

8:00 a.m. - Traditional

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary

*Easter
Breakfast*



Sunday, April 12th

8:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Menu Includes:

Eggs, Ham, Toast

Juices, Rolls

Coffee & Milk

Cost: \$4.00

(Children under 10 Free)

Stewardship Corner

“Oh, Come, Let Us Adore Him”

The refrain of one of the best-known and most beloved Christmas carols is “Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.” Those words immediately evoke an image in our minds of shepherds leaving their flocks and bowing down before the newborn baby and of Wise Men, traveling great distances to see the Child, kneeling to adore Him and placing their gifts before Him.

It’s a scene that makes sense to us, quite unlike the scene before us on Calvary. Here we picture a beaten and bruised man, hanging on a cross, a tool designed to inflict optimal pain upon a convicted criminal. The man is the Baby in the Manger. Although he has reached adulthood, He has done nothing to deserve this punishment. *“Though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth”* (Isaiah 53:9), He was *“oppressed and afflicted”* (Isaiah 53:7), *“He was taken away ... He was cut off from the land of the living”* (Isaiah 53:8).

And, as for adoring Him, that was hardly the case. *“He was despised and rejected by men ... Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not”* (Isaiah 53:3). Ah, but there were those who adored Him still, women who stood near the cross, loving Him and adoring Him to the end (John 19:25). Although His disciples initially deserted Him (Mark 14:50), some returned to keep watch with Him in His final hour (John 19:26-27). In horror and grief, they adored Him.

“What would we have done?” we may ask ourselves. Would we have run and hid? Would

we have ignored the whole ordeal and gone about our business? Would we, like the centurion, have praised God and confessed, *“Surely this was a righteous man”* (Luke 23:45)?

That question need not take up much of our time. A better question is, “What are we doing with the knowledge we have?: We know Christ did not stay on that cross or in the tomb. We know we have a risen Savior. He is the One Who deserves our adoration now and forevermore. He is the One Who deserves our gifts, gifts He gives each of us to use as we tell the Good News of the birth, suffering and death, and resurrection of His Son Who came bringing us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Some of us, like the Wise Men, are blessed with monetary gifts to be used to support mission and ministry. Others of us are more like the shepherds and the apostles, able to *“spread the word concerning what [we] have been told ... about this Child”* (Luke 2:17). All of us, like the women before the cross, give witness as we adore our beaten and bruised, victorious Savior.

Priscilla Guild

If you have any questions regarding the Priscilla Guild and their activities, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492. Thank you!

Thank You Messages!

- Thanks to all who have turned in LWML Mite Boxes. If you do not have a Mite Box, use a frosting can and mark it "LWML Mites." Return it to Gladys Lossow, and we will send it all in to LWML Mites. *Save your change for LWML.*
- A word of thanks to everyone who attended the Bunco Parties, as well as donated prizes and refreshments.
- Thank you to all who have donated card tables for church use. We can always use more card tables – new or used.

LWML Spring Rally

The LWML Spring Rally and Dinner will be on Tuesday, April 21st, at 6:00 p.m. The Rally will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (5421 France Ave. S.; Edina). The theme is *"The Navajo – My People."*

For ticket information, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.

End of the Year Party

We need a place for the End of the Year Party. This is a chicken dinner for all members and sponsored by the Priscilla Guild.

If you would like to host the party, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.

Rummage Sale Items

As you do your annual Spring Cleaning, don't forget the annual Rummage Sale. This year the sale will be held on September 10, 11, and 12. We sort items on September 9th. Bring your items at the end of August.



✠ My sincere thank you and appreciation for the many thoughts, cards and prayers afforded me for my surgeries.

In God's Name, Shirley Petro

✠ Dear Holy Emmanuel Friends:

Thank you for the lovely plant that you sent in my Dad's honor. It was wonderful and comforting to know that our family is being prayed for and cared for at this difficult time. The thoughts by so many in the church are truly healing! Thank you, and God bless Holy Emmanuel!

Scott Ramsdale & Family



Coins for Missions

Look for the jar in the narthex labeled "Coins for Missions." Holy Emmanuel along with the other congregations of the District are asked to help support one of our newest congregations in Mankato, MN – **Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Congregation of Southern Minnesota** – by collecting coins (paper money or checks are not allowed!). Pastor Starr and Chuck Squires will then take the money collected and it will be received during the Opening Service of our upcoming District Convention in June. Bring your coins to church each week between now and June 7th, and deposit them in the jar. During the services the delegates will be given the opportunity to "make a joyful noise to the Lord!"

Mt. Hope-Redemption Gala

"Full Steam Ahead - A Riverboat Experience" is this year's theme for the Mount Hope/Redemption Lutheran School annual Gala, at 927 E Old Shakopee Rd Bloomington, MN 55420. An elegant dinner is served while live music enhances the ambiance of the evening. There will be nearly 100 silent and live auction items up for bid, with TV - WCCO News anchor, Frank Vascellaro as the auctioneer. The fun filled event will ship off, Saturday, April 18th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. You may reserve and purchase your tickets by April 3rd by calling (952) 881-0036. Tickets are \$25.00 and a portion of the proceeds is to support the new K-12 Lion's Gate Christian Academy.

Summer Fun and Faith at Camp Omega

The 2009 Camp Omega summer camp program is open for registration. The 70 different week and weekend programs for children as young as 4 years old and families focuses on providing a vibrant and fun Christian community where campers learn, grow, and apply the Christian faith.

Visit www.campomega.org, call (507) 685-4266, or pick up a brochure at church.

EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8½" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.