

He is Risen!

I grew up in a time when we heard "Show me" a lot. I was told that if you were from Missouri that this was your motto. We were taught to make sure that we had evidence from someone if they made some outrageous claim.

I remember that my dad did not follow this advice when he went to some outlet place and purchased a whole bag of socks for only \$1. Wow, he thought, what a deal and but when he came home and sorted them all out in pairs there was no matching set. He had gotten a great deal all right if he didn't mind walking around with a strange combination of socks.

I think we approach Easter in a similar way. We want proof; we want evidence that this really happened. What is interesting is that in Mark's account of the resurrection we have only 8 verses. Most scholars believe that this was all Mark wrote. Eight verses to "prove" that the once dead Jesus was alive! This doesn't seem to be much proof at all.

Over the years there has been a garment, a cloth that surfaces occasionally as the "proof" of the resurrection. It is called the Shroud of Turin. There are constant claims of this cloth's authenticity.

I am not here to say either way. What I am here to say is that it seems that the proof of the resurrection is not in identifying the exact location and temperature of the tomb. It is not in the physical evidence of Jesus' burial clothes. The proof of the resurrection for those early believers was in the way people were changed. How people who professed their faith in the risen Lord lived out their lives.

The proof of the resurrection today is how we now live out our lives transformed by the resurrection. How do we who are forgiven and embraced by God's new life act and react in a world that is seduced by things and thoughts that turn us inward?

We are Easter people and if that doesn't matter then Easter is reduced to another "Hallmark moment", celebrated but boxed up for another year.

We are Easter people who have been given another chance, a new way of living. We are Easter people whose eyes are opened to the incredible love of God who cannot accept death as the final answer.

We are Easter people who have been forgiven and each time we share that gift Easter happens again.

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Self Bible Study for the Easter season

Easter is celebrated for 7 weeks. I am not sure many of us knew that before. For seven weeks we reflect on and ponder the wonder and surprise that Jesus is alive; that death is not the final answer and that we too have the power of new life.

During these weeks I would encourage each of us to take a second look at what we have become familiar to us in order to discover something new in the resurrection.

One method for self study is to read the story and then ask three questions. I learned this method while in Tanzania. I simply has the reader ask : Where is God in the story? Who am I in the story? And What is God asking of me in this story?

Each question may allow you to discover something that you had not known before or felt before. I would suggest that the second question lead you to consider various people in the story. How would you feel? How would you act or react? What would you be thinking?

Let the word of God speak to you in new ways.

The gospel lessons for the weeks of Easter in April are:

- Mark 16: 1-8 - Go back to Galilee
- John 20:19-31 - Locked in a room.
- John 10:11-18 - Shepherd and sheep
- John 15: 1-8 - Vine and branches

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you.”

John 15:16

We had just finished the branding. The cows were on the outside of the fenced holding corral. Their calves were creating quite a sound as they called for their mother. One thousand cows and their calves now being reunited after the branding of the calves. But how would they find each other? How would a calf know where its mother was, as the herd was spread over the open pasture?

We were given the assignment to station ourselves along the edge of the herd, and wait. The noise grew as calves and cows all met in the same field. The bellowing was intense, quick and anxious, cow calling and calf responding. Some calves gave up and wandered away. It was our job to push them back into the herd. Being lost causes confusion, and these calves stood frozen without much hope. The calves' cries that at first were strong and clear now turned to a mere whimper. The cows though continued to search and bellow out.

Moving about the herd the cows stretched their noses toward the sky and bellowed. There was no rest here. They were going to find their child. The reunion was amazing! Mother finally connecting with child, and the sound stopped as the licking began. Calf content and the cow secure in knowing that they found the one that was lost.

Some calves remained alone and disconnected. They seemed to have lost hope, and they finally laid down in exhaustion. The cows were relentless though, and they continued to bellow until all the lost were found.

I have always found this passage from John's Gospel intriguing. God choosing me, finding me, searching for me as I wander lost, confused and losing hope. How the bellowing of God must sound as God searches for all those who are lost. All of God's creation being called, being invited, being searched for by a God who bellows until all are found.

Is not this the action of the incarnation and the cross? God bellowing in his son, born into flesh, so that the search could go on in the world. God bellowing on the cross in the cries of the son, who had shown so much promise, and now the Father grieving in pain as the promise is crucified. Oh how God desires us to be his own, to be his children, to be joined to him forever. And God will not stop bellowing until all are found.

Gracious and loving God, you do not desire the death of your creation, but rather desire all to live. Oh how you search for us, calling so that we may hear, inviting so that we may receive, loving that we may live. Open our hearts and our ears and our minds so that we may know and live in your gift of love. Amen.

Excerpt from "Reflection of a Cowboy" by Pastor Chris Becker

ST MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 206, 28595 Randolph Blvd., Randolph, MN 55065

507-263-9182

Email: stmarkschurch@northfieldwifi.com

Website: stmarksrandolphweb.wix.com/stmarks

Church School E-mail: stmarkschurchschoolkids@gmail.com

Office Hours: Typically, Mon and Thurs 5-7pm, Saturday 9-11am

Facebook: St. Mark's Lutheran Church

April 2018

WELCA is collecting clean, gently used tote bags to be given to the Women's Shelter. Thank you.

The Blood Drive is April 5th, noon-6pm, please sign up to volunteer and/or donate.



Get in touch with Beth Bester or there are signup sheets in the entry.

Congratulations to those who received communion for the first time

Gianna Betzold, Cecilia Elliott, McKenna Gergen, Katelyn Hare, Luke Kranz, Hunter Kriesel, JD Kuhn, Rachel Motz, Carter Raymond, Olivia Smith, Jonathan Toledo

Just a few Church School, Confirmation and Youth Group updates for the next month.

- Easter Service on April 1st at 10:00 am. Easter Egg hunt for Pre-K/K through 5th grade following service weather permitting.
- No Church School or Confirmation classes on Easter Sunday
- Church School resumes Wednesday April 4th at 6pm with meal served 5:30-6pm (Spaghetti and garlic bread)
- Please continue to send offerings and talk with your children about tithing to help the church and others in need
- Confirmation Sundays for April are the 8th, 15th and 22nd following the 10am service, also there will be a make up date on Wednesday the 25th from 7-8PM
- Youth Group event planned for Sunday April 8th, 6pm-8:30PM, grades 6-12th are welcome.
- Information can be found on the Youth Group Facebook page or by contacting Carol Nassiff at youthgroupstmarksrandolph@gmail.com to get on the email list.

As of March 28th we are \$1000 under budget of the year.

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Prayer Requests

Joyce Nuehring (Lucinda's Aunt), Dan Deike (Kathy Motz' Father), Bob Fleskes, Gloria Dubbels, Kay Molstrom (Tony Price's Mom), Craig Kolstad, Regan Nordling and the Nordling family, Jim Roschen, Paul Hunsaid, Luke Nassif, Glen Holz, and please keep all our Seniors in your prayers. **Some** are in Care Centers: Arnie Felton, Rosella Davisson, Maxine Sunde, Norman and Eleanor Ohmann, Norma Taylor, Ray Ohmann, Leatrice Taylor, Robert and Margaret Hayes

FOOD SHELF NEEDS

Food Shelf needs: Beef stew, shampoo, canned fruit, sugar, syrup and spam. We use all cash donations to buy perishable items. Thank you for your help.

CALL COMMITTEE

A big thank you to Al Bester, Bob Helgerson, Crystal Kranz, Tyler Otte, Lucinda Preston, and Kelly Tate. They have a lot of work to do, so let's keep them in our prayers!!

Confirmation Class schedule for the remainder of the year:

April 8, 15, 22, and 29th (no class on the 1st, Easter)

Wednesday Make-up dates for those who cannot come on any given Sunday in that particular month for reasons of a SPORT conflict.

Dates are: April 25th 7-8pm



Youth Dinner and Movie Night
6th Grade and above

What: Dinner and

Movie on the Big Screen

Cost: Free will offering to the St. Mark's Youth Group

When: Sunday April 8, 2018

6 pm to 8:30 pm

(**Depending on movie may extend to 9 pm)

Where: St Mark's Lutheran Church
Randolph

Movie starts at 6:30 pm

Make your own Personal Pizza's,
enjoy a Beverage and Snacks

Feel free to come after Randolph open
Gym and Remember to invite friends

Go to the link below to sign up and rank your
movie choice

1. Jumanji: Welcome to the New World
2. Star Wars the Last Jedi
3. Pitch Perfect 3
4. Justice League: You Can't Save the world Alone

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GZPLGB>

Questions?

youthgroupstmarksrandolph@gmail.com

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SERVICE GROUP A

Ron & Robin	Bakken
Jill & Adam	Ballard/Otis
Ed & Kayla	Barrett
Al & Beth	Bester
Matthew & Angie	Cooreman
Tara & Steve	Dahlen
Garlan & Kathy	Dubbels
Candice & Sam	Feidt
Chris & Julie	Felton
Jeff & Trista	Ford
Larissa	Foss
Eric & Alissa	Gehrke
Ashley	Gergen
Brett & Sara	Gustafson
Dan & Carol	Harris
Bob & Frieda	Helgerson
Dave & Sandy	Kutz
Orin & Linda	Legare
Karla & Mitch	Monson
Verone	Mortenson
Jamie & Trevor	Newborg
Brian & Sandy	Nicolai
Richard & Melanie	Olson
Deena	Otto
Tony & Lisa	Price
Randy & Chris	Ratzlaff
Arlene	Ringeisen
Bob	Romanoski
Tim & Carla	Skog
Jodi & Todd	Staub
Rob & Kelly	Tate
Bill & Jodi	Taylor
Katie & Roddy	Thielbar
Aaron & Beth	Thompson
Wayne & Diane	Trapp
Wayne & Carolyn	Weidner
Kevin & Jessica	Willems



Happy Easter!

**HE
IS
RISEN**

Service Group A Contacts:

Jodi Taylor 612-719-4375

April 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Easter Service 10am	2	3 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am	4	5	6	7
8 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation Pack 208 5pm	9	10 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 5-6:30PM Council Meeting 7pm	11 FOOD SHELF 8-10 AM WELCA 10am Bible Study 11am Church school 6-7pm	12	13	14
15 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation	16	17 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am FOOD SHELF 4-5:30PM	18 Church school 6-7pm Alzheimer's Support Group 9:30am	19	20 Crafting 5pm-10pm	21 Crafting 9am-10pm
22 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school Confirmation Special Congregation Service	23	24 Bible Study 9am Quilting 10am Newsletter Deadline	25 FOOD SHELF 9-11AM Church school 6-7pm Confirmation Make up 7-8pm	26	27	28
29 Service 10am Pre-k..1 st Sunday school confirmation Youth Group	30					