

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

—1 Corinthians 4:1

The last two months, we have studied the comforting gift of Private Confession. The Lord gives us an opportunity to confess specific sins and to hear him say to us as individuals: “I forgive you.” He takes the good news that we hear in the preaching of the Gospel and applies it to us personally, even as he does in the other sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. This month, we will look at the office (position) God has created, in which he calls certain men to stand in his stead in order to hear our confession and speak the words of Absolution, whereby we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

This office is called by a few names: the Office of the Holy Ministry, the Office of Pastor, or as it’s taught in Luther’s Small Catechism—the Office of the Keys. Christ promised such an office to his apostles in Matthew 16, when he said, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19). The keys in heaven’s kingdom do the same two things that any other key can do: lock and unlock. This promise was fulfilled on Easter evening, when Jesus appeared to the apostles, giving them the Holy Spirit with his life-giving breath and saying, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained” (John 20:22-23 KJV). The King James Version uses words that coincide well with the idea of keys, for to “retain” literally means to keep or, in this case, to lock, whereas “remit” means to let go or to unlock.

The authority to forgive sins belongs only to God, for it is by his grace and mercy alone, poured forth from his Son’s atoning death on a cross, that any sin can be forgiven. However, such authority has been given to the Church, so that what is forgiven on earth is also forgiven in heaven. The Church has been given the keys, and the Church calls pastors to rightly use them. These men are called into the Office of the Keys. Such keys don’t belong to them, but they have been authorized to use them on behalf of the Church and in the stead of Christ. Thus Luther teaches that when our sins are absolved by the pastor, “this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.”

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Pastors are not the congregation's employee. This isn't merely a job or a career. But rather, it is a calling, given through the Church but ultimately coming from God. For that reason, it is the highest calling, for through such a call and in such an office, the pastor is literally God's representative on earth. Thus, St. Paul calls himself and other pastors "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). An ambassador is an official representative of a higher authority, such as when the President of the United States has an ambassador to France or Germany, who represents him. Such a person stands in the President's stead and speaks on his behalf. So also, pastors have been sent by Christ to speak in his stead.

St. Paul also calls pastors "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1). A steward is much like the manager of a grocery store. Such a manager doesn't own the store but only oversees its day-to-day operations, just as a pastor doesn't own the Church or the mysteries of God (the means of grace), but he oversees them and hands them out to the people. Thus, St. Paul also calls pastors overseers (1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:7), who "are keeping watch over your souls" (Hebrews 13:17).

In short, a pastor is more than an employee, more than just the church-worker you see on Sunday mornings. His life is dedicated towards representing Christ to his congregation and community. He speaks on your Lord's behalf, even as Jesus promised: "The one who hears you hears me" (Luke 10:16). This means that when I say to you as an individual, "I forgive you all your sins," you don't hear me, but you hear Jesus. It's not my forgiveness but his. I just happen to be the mouthpiece from which he speaks. As Luther once commented on Private Confession, "It is Christ who sits there, Christ who hears, Christ who answers and not a man."

One of the main reasons I think many Christians might avoid going to Private Confession is the fear of confessing specific sins to another sinful human being. It is the fear of judgment. "What will the pastor think of me? My reputation will be ruined. I'm too embarrassed." Or even worse, one might have a misinformed view of the Office of the Keys and think to himself, "There's no way I'm confessing my sins to *him*. Who is he anyway? He doesn't have the right to know my deepest, darkest secrets."

And yet, that is precisely why I am here. That is precisely why Christ instituted the Office of the Keys and the sacrament of Confession. Jesus knows what he's doing. He knows there's the fear of judgment and the risk of confessing your sins to a mere man. And yet, the pastor isn't a mere man. He's been called, that is, he's been set apart from amongst men to represent the God above. He has sworn to never divulge sins, for as God's representative, he does what God has promised to do: "I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). If God doesn't count your sins against you, neither can the pastor. The pastor doesn't represent the secular government or any other civil authority, thus your sins can never be shared with the world. In Private Confession, they are only God's to hear, for only he has the authority to forgive them. The Lord doesn't want to judge or condemn you, but to unlock you from your chains and release you from your burden, to comfort and uplift you, so that you can be certain that your sins have been washed away with the blood of Christ. God desires that you have a good conscience, one that is free from guilt and shame. That is also the pastor's desire, for he has conformed his will to the One he represents, the One who has commanded him to stand in his stead and to say on his behalf: "I forgive you all your sins."

In Christ,

Pastor Haller



WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Why is the paschal candle lit only during Easter?

The word *pachal* comes from the Hebrew word for the Passover and also has its root from a word meaning "to suffer." Paschal has also been used by the Christian Church as another name for Easter. And so, the paschal candle in our sanctuary can rightfully be called the Easter Candle. This candle intentionally stands next to the baptismal font, where a sinner is joined to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so that all who are baptized are killed, buried, and raised up. What takes place in those waters is what took place on Good Friday through Easter Sunday.

Because of this, the paschal candle is only lit during the season of Easter, beginning on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, when we transition from darkness to light, from the cross to the empty tomb. At that service, the candle is blessed with a new fire, just as our hearts are rekindled with the fire of God's love that we might be prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end.

This candle remains lit throughout the season of Easter, which lasts for forty days, coinciding with the days our Lord appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. At the end of those forty days, our Lord was taken from their sight, as he joined himself to the power and glory of his Father. Although he could no longer be seen, he was still with his Church always to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20), even as he is with us now through his Word and Sacrament. And so, on the day of Ascension, the paschal candle is extinguished, not signifying that Christ has "left the building," but that he is no longer visible. If Christ had completely abandoned us then we would have to remove the candle, but we don't. He is with his Church on earth through the preached Word, the waters of Baptism, and his body and blood on the altar.

The paschal candle remains unlit until the following Easter, except when there is a Baptism or funeral, the beginning and end of every Christian life here on earth. Again, Holy Baptism is a death and resurrection, just as a funeral is used to proclaim the resurrection for all those who die in Christ, knowing that "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).





In anticipation of our congregation's 75th anniversary in November 2024, we will have a hymn chosen for the month that will be used during the Divine Service. The hymns of the church give God's people the words to sing his praises and to confess what he has done for them in the saving death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

***Like the Golden Sun Ascending* TLH 207**

Along with Luther's hymn "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (LSB 458) and Paul Gerhardt's "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" (LSB 467), this is the one of the most important Easter hymns produced in the Lutheran tradition. Commenting on this masterpiece written by Thomas Kingo (1634-1703), John Dahle wrote: "Here [Kingo's] notes ring out loud and clear like the chiming peals of deep-toned, resonant church bells, and his rejoicing in the glorious hope of Resurrection is hardly equaled by any other poet."

A shorter version of this hymn is found in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB 548), but we will instead be using a longer version from the Lutheran Hymn (TLH 207). However, the original hymn had ten stanzas.

Each stanza is filled with the joy of Christ's victory that shines forth from his grave, so that "darkness takes to flight." Because he is risen from the dead, "death hath no power over us." And although we must suffer many things in this life (such as our sin, our helplessness, forsaken friends, sore distress, being despised, contemned, and condemned), still "the light of hope shines over" us. All heartache in this world is transitory, even death itself, therefore one day, we shall "meet [Jesus] in the skies." Until that time, we pray that the Lord would send us his Holy Spirit that we may walk and behave as those who have been retrieved from "death's grim pit and pain." And finally, for all the gifts of Christ—his advent, the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, his death and resurrection—we thank and extol him, and in heaven we shall behold him.

Just as sure as "the golden sun" will ascend each morning, so are we certain of our Lord's resurrection and of our own on the Last Day. For this, we give thanks to Christ, the Lord of Life!

<p>1 Like the golden sun ascending, Breaking through the gloom of night, On the earth his glory spending So that darkness takes to flight, Thus my Jesus from the grave And Death's dismal, dreadful cave Rose triumphant Easter morning At the early purple dawning.</p> <p>2 Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life! Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife. Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened Paradise! None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.</p> <p>3 Though I be by sin o'ertaken, Though I lie in helplessness, Though I be by friends forsaken And must suffer sore distress, Though I be despised, contemned, And by all the world condemned, Though the dark grave yawn before me, Yet the light of hope shines o'er me.</p> <p>4 Thou hast died for my transgression, All my sins on Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me salvation, On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall arise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death itself is transitory; I shall lift my head in glory.</p> <p>5 Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, And Thy Holy Spirit send That my walk and my behavior May be pleasing to the end; That I may not fall again Into death's grim pit and pain, Whence by grace Thou hast retrieved me And from which Thou hast relieved me.</p> <p>6 For the joy Thy advent gave me, For Thy holy, precious Word; For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, For Thy blest Communion board; For Thy death, the bitter scorn, For Thy resurrection morn, Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, And in heaven I shall behold Thee.</p>

April Divine Services
(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, April 7, 2024

The First Sunday after Easter
Quasimodo Geniti
John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14, 2024

The Second Sunday after Easter
Misericordias Domini
John 10:11-16

Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Third Sunday after Easter
Jubilate
John 16:16-22

Sunday, April 28, 2024

The Fourth Sunday after Easter
Cantate
John 16:5-15

**NEXT VOTERS MEETING:
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 @ 11 AM**

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Wayne & Lynn Dinsmore
- 21 Aaron & Heather Reinbold
- 22 Ed & Lil McAlpine
- 26 Earl & Bev Voss

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 17 Larry Spencer
- 24 Amelia Reinbold
- 25 Laura Starkey
Alberta Reinbold

SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

Jean Adams

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.
Reese, MI 48757

John & Ruth Ann Kajjala

6004 Gilford Rd.
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Marge Montgomery

8039 Massoll St.
Reese, MI 48757

Lillian Wheeler

Bay Shores Senior Care
3254 East Midland Road
Bay City, MI 48706



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Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:
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*The WORD of the LORD
ENDURES FOREVER*

www.thewordendures.org

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available throughout the season of Lent every Saturday morning from 9 to 10 am.

It is also regularly offered every first Wednesday of the month at 11 am and every third Saturday of the month at 9 am.

It is always available by appointment.

CHURCH LIBRARY

To check out any book from the church library, simply fill out the information needed on the clipboard hanging on the shelf.

For children

CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING

a hymn by Ernst C. Homburg, illustrated by Debra L. Swearingen

LIKE THE GOLDEN SUN ASCENDING

a hymn by Thomas H. Kingo, illustrated by Debra L. Swearingen

Enjoy two hymns in one book! Reflect on Christ's passion while singing the Lenten hymn Christ, the Life of All the Living. Flip the book over and rejoice in His resurrection with the Easter hymn Like the Golden Sun Ascending (sometimes abridged as Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious). This is April's Hymn of the Month.

From the sturdy columns throughout to the rich imagery within, the bold illustrations chronicle our salvation. The carefully painted cut paper designs truly bring Lent and Easter to life for even the youngest readers.



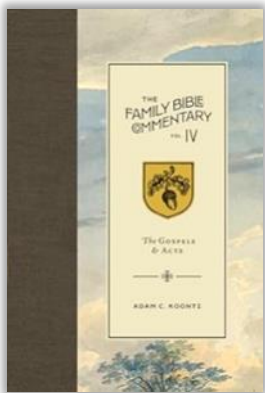
For the family

THE FAMILY BIBLE COMMENTARY, VOLUME IV: THE GOSPELS & ACTS

by Rev. Adam Koontz

Pastor Koontz says, "Open up your Bible, and use these reference book commentaries as a guide to show the sure and straight way to the mercies and glories of God in Christ Jesus. You may read a chapter or two of Scripture and then use the books to shed more light, to connect what went before and what is still to come, to focus the whole Word of God on the death and resurrection of the Lord.

The commentary will help you, but like a good guide, it will step out of your way to see the wonders the Scriptures have for you. With the help of this book, devour the Scriptures as Ezekiel ate the scroll of God and found it like honey, sweeter than anything to his taste. Take up and read!"



Christian Fiction

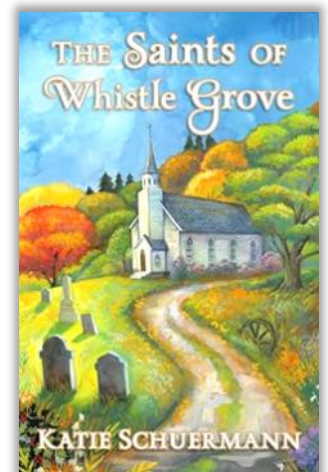
THE SAINTS OF WHISTLE GROVE

by Katie Schuermann

After 150 years of preaching the Gospel, the little country parish of Whistle Grove has closed its doors for good, but the faithful Rev. Edmund G. Oglethorpe remains. There is the empty building and the crumbling cemetery to maintain, and who else will bury old Miriam Werth when the time comes?

Told through the voices of generations past and present, The Saints of Whistle Grove follows the journey of a son in search of his mother, a daughter in need of connection, a family without a home, and the cemetery that brings them all together.

Join the blessed saints of Whistle Grove in pondering the wondrous mystery that, whoever believes in Christ, "though he die, yet shall he live."



CHRISTIAN TRAINING

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

	Sunday School	Adult Bible Study
11 am to 11:40 am	Lesson (preschool—4th grade)	Acts (also 5th—8th grade)
11:20 am to 12 pm	Music (preschool—8th grade)	Explanation of Common Service

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR TRINITY SUNDAY (May 26th)

THE MEN'S STUDY

April 20, 7:30 to 9 am
every 3rd Saturday of the month
prayer + breakfast + the Lutheran Confessions



WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am Matins
10 am Bible Study

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

—Romans 1:16-17



In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

—Ephesians 1:7



75th Anniversary

“The Riches of His Grace”

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Divine Service at 9:15 am

Program at 11 am

Meal at 11:30 am



ANNIVERSARY PREACHERS

In celebration of our 75th Anniversary in November of this year, we have invited previous pastors to come and preach. After the Divine Service, we will have a potluck meal in which we can hear from the pastors, their experience here at Grace and an update on their lives since then. Come and join us as we begin to celebrate the riches of God's grace for 75 years.

Rev. Leonard Astrowski
2004-2014



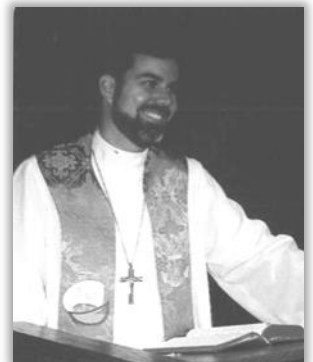
preaching May 26, 2024

Paul Bickel
1982-1986



preaching July 7, 2024

Rev. David Petersen
1996-2000



preaching October 20, 2024

STEWARDSHIP

April Coffee Money Seminary Students

The Stewardship Board's quarterly mission for April through June will be to St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf. In years past, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was able to serve the deaf community with a Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. After this school closed, there was no longer a way to access the youth in the deaf community. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society started St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf in cooperation with Emmanuel Lutheran School in Dearborn. With growing support our hope is to have all the funds needed to keep the school running tuition free. The school hopes to accomplish these goals:

- Provide a bilingual ASL and English environment for grades PreK-8 and be an avenue for the giving of the Gospel so that each child (and family) may believe in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Train the child in the biblical truths of Christianity as confessed by the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Provide a comprehensive educational program.
- Enhance the self-worth of each child and lead him to awareness of God's goodness in his life.
- Develop the talents that God has given each child.
- Provide a nurturing and caring environment in which each child can work, learn, love and grow.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the back table of the narthex.

Anniversary Cookbook

To help celebrate our congregation's 75th anniversary this year, the Ladies' Aid is putting together a commemorative cookbook! Please submit your recipes to Hannah Haller by September 1, 2024. If you would like to include why you love the recipe, why it is special to you, or any other information, please include that with the recipe. The recipes may be submitted in any format (i.e. handwritten or typed).



thank you

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting Wellspring Lutheran Services through your generous contribution of \$542.00. Donations, such as yours, are very important and enable us to provide the many programs we provide and help us meet many specific needs of the children, families and seniors we serve.

Each day Wellspring impacts the lives of literally hundreds of people, young and old, who are in need of one, or more, of our many services. By making this donation, you help equip our staff with the tools they need to renew hope and restore troubled lives.

Thank you again for helping Wellspring reach out to those in need. Your generosity takes on a very special meaning in their lives and to our staff who serve and support them.

Sincerely,

David M. Gehm
President and CEO



THE DAILY READINGS

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

April 1st	Psalm 13	Exodus 15:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-28
April 2nd	Psalm 81:1-7	Exodus 15:19-16:12	Hebrews 10:1-18
April 3rd	Psalm 134	Exodus 16:13-35	Hebrews 10:19-39
April 4th	Psalm 114	Exodus 17:1-16	Hebrews 11:1-29
April 5th	Psalm 145:1-9	Exodus 18:5-27	Hebrews 12:1-24
April 6th	Psalm 30:3-12	Exodus 19:1-25	Hebrews 13:1-21
April 7th	Psalm 119:9-16	Exodus 20:1-24	Luke 4:1-15
April 8th	Psalm 146	Exodus 22:20-23:13	Luke 4:16-30
April 9th	Psalm 26:1-3, 8-12	Exodus 23:14-33	Luke 4:31-44
April 10th	Psalm 99:1-5	Exodus 24:1-18	Luke 5:1-16
April 11th	Psalm 119:25-32	Exodus 25:1-22	Luke 5:17-39
April 12th	Psalm 92:1-9	Exodus 31:1-18	Luke 6:1-19
April 13th	Psalm 106:16-23	Exodus 32:1-14	Luke 6:20-38
April 14th	Psalm 119:49-56	Exodus 32:15-35	Luke 6:39-49
April 15th	Psalm 80:1-7	Exodus 33:1-23	Luke 7:1-17
April 16th	Psalm 86:11-17	Exodus 34:1-28	Luke 7:18-35
April 17th	Psalm 84:1-4	Exodus 34:29-35:21	Luke 7:36-50
April 18th	Psalm 119:145-152	Exodus 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31	Luke 8:1-21
April 19th	Psalm 107:23-32	Exodus 39:32-40:16	Luke 8:22-39
April 20th	Psalm 41:1-3, 11-13	Exodus 40:17-38	Luke 8:40-56
April 21st	Psalm 45:4-8a	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36	Luke 9:1-17
April 22nd	Psalm 119:129-138	Leviticus 9:1-24	Luke 9:18-36
April 23rd	Psalm 25:1-10	Leviticus 10:1-20	Luke 9:37-62
April 24th	Psalm 19:7-14	Leviticus 16:1-24	Luke 10:1-22
April 25th	Psalm 17:7-15	Leviticus 17:1-16	Luke 10:23-42
April 26th	Psalm 119:1-8	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20-19:8	Luke 11:1-13
April 27th	Psalm 36:7-12	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37	Luke 11:14-36
April 28th	Psalm 37:1-9	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27	Luke 11:37-54
April 29th	Psalm 31:1-5	Leviticus 21:1-24	Luke 12:1-12
April 30th	Psalm 127	Leviticus 23:1-22	Luke 12:13-34



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Parish Planning Meeting March 19, 2024

Attendance: Pastor Haller, Aaron Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold, Steve Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold, Joanne Hills, Diane Spencer and Mary Masker.

Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Pastor Haller opened with a reading and devotion from John 7 and closed devotion with prayer.

Review of the December Parish Planning meeting minutes as well as the January Voter's meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Diane Spencer and 2nd by Joanne Hills. Motion carried and approved.

Treasurer's Report ~ Mary Masker

- Balances as of end of February, checking account balance at \$16,254.27.
- Update on the AbleLight/Bethesda group homes in Frankenmuth and Saginaw: St. Lorenz Church has committed to purchasing/managing the 110 Franklin Street home in Frankenmuth and Wellspring has submitted a purchase agreement with AbleLight to purchase the Mayer Street home in Frankenmuth as well as the two homes in Saginaw. They are hoping to transition by June.
- Stephen Bender has been assisting Mary Masker with tax information to determine if we have to file additional tax forms this year due to 1099 forms received for credit union interest and contributions paid through Melaleuca. Also had copy of tax assessment for parsonage property to give to elders.

Elders ~ Steve Reinbold

- Proceeds from the December Advent dinner were designated to go towards Lutheran Witness subscriptions.
- Continue trying to make contact with a few delinquent members and Pastor writing letters to send out.
- 3rd Saturday Men's Bible Study group gathering is going well. Susan Pfund, Sandy D'Addezio and Pam Ill served the breakfast for the group.
- Rev. Stephen Starke and Chelsea Worden will be working together to write a hymn for our 75th Church Anniversary.
- Disposed of the old church organ.
- Three candidates for First Communion this year.
- Elders served the March 13th Lenten dinner. Proceeds may go toward devotions or Lutheran Witness.
- Finished making up the 2024 Elders schedule. Also finalized elders for the Holy Week services.
- Discussed the increase to Pastor's housing allowance. This is just a designation of his salary for tax purposes.

Evangelism and Mercy ~ Leslie Reinbold

- January game night was a success with 35 people in attendance. The board served hot chocolate and popcorn. Discussing plans for another game night to come.
- Board served the March 6th Lenten dinner, with around 45 people attending. Proceeds to go to school supplies.
- Looking for a photographer to put together a new church directory.
- Will be having another meeting within the next month.

Ladies Aid ~ Diane Spencer

- Ladies Aid served the February 21st Lenten dinner with proceeds to go toward the Church Anniversary plans.
- 28 flowers ordered for Easter.
- Purchased paper products for kitchen supplies.
- Ladies Aid will be putting a Church Cookbook together. Any favorite recipes may be given to Hannah Haller.
- Spring cleaning needs to be scheduled.
- Next meeting will be April 4th.

Stewardship ~ Joanne Hills

- Mary Masker has sample of coaster for Anniversary gift and need to work on graphic for printing.
- April coffee money going to seminary students. May collection designated for Youth Trip and June goes to Positive Alternatives. Ascension envelope goes to Armed Forces Ministry and Mother's Day envelope goes to Lutherans for Life. We also support Positive Alternatives with the Baby Bottle Boomerang from May to June.
- Stewardship has designated the 2nd quarter special collection envelopes for St. Martin's School for the Deaf.

Young People's Work ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Youth will not be going to Higher Things this year.
- Planning a junior youth event for April 6th or 13th at Brentwood in Caro.
- Planning a weekend retreat for senior high this summer.

Fellowship ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Board designated the proceeds from the Lenten dinner will go to Orphan Grain Train.
- Planning for Easter breakfast at 8am on March 31st. Will be serving strawberry shortcake for Mother's Day and pies for Father's Day. Want to plan another church picnic after May.
- Fellowship will be hiring a caterer for November 10th church anniversary dinner after service that Sunday. Elders will be serving the luncheon for the Holy Conversation on Saturday, November 9th.
- Ann Emery is making beaded Chrismon ornaments for our visiting pastors this year.

Church Properties ~ No Report

Pastor's Report

- Jr. High Catechesis will start up again in the week after Easter through May 29th. We have several candidates for First Communion.
- The High School Catechumens will meet again in April and May.
- Wednesday Bible Class is currently studying Romans 12 and Sunday Bible Class is studying Acts 10.
- Men's 3rd Saturday Bible Study currently has 10 men regularly attending.
- Holy Week services planned each day next week.
- Our two circuits are planning convocations with a combined service. The theme "Glad Hymns Forever. Alleluia," will be celebrating 500 years since the 1st Lutheran hymnal. Looking for guest speaker, will have breakouts and a hymn festival. This will be held in Sebawaing at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Michigan District Church Extension has pledged \$5000 per circuit.
- Pastor and Hannah will be Glen's official foster parents as of the day after Easter.

Old Business

- Kitchen Remodel: May look into Amish cabinets and new appliances. Mary Masker will talk to Vassar Building Center to see if we can get ideas or prints for layout. Aaron Reinbold is joining the committee.
- Church Anniversary ~ Saturday, 11/09 will be Holy Conversations with Pastor Weedon as our guest speaker. Elders will be serving lunch. Sunday, 11/10 will be the Anniversary service led by Pastor Weedon with a catered dinner after. Anniversary theme is "The Riches of His Grace" from Ephesians 1:7. Pastor Starke and Chelsea Worden working on a hymn and Hannah Haller working on a graphic for the occasion. Plans to be made for choirs to participate in the service as well. There will be a presentation after service, before the meal with some history and photos giving fellowship board enough time to set up the dinner. Our visiting pastors will be: Pastor Astrowski on May 26th, Pastor Bickel on July 7th and Pastor Petersen on October 20th. We will plan a potluck dinner after these services.

New Business

- Church library is now in fellowship hall. Memorial Fund has been used to purchase more books, primarily children's books. It was suggested that we start a designated fund for the church library.
- Pastor asked for approval to open an Amazon account to take advantage of better pricing.
- Elders proposed a new housing allowance designation. A motion was made to update the housing allowance to appropriate 70% of pastor's salary. This new housing allowance would go into effect as of the 2nd quarter of 2024. Motion made by Steve Reinbold and 2nd by Joanne Hills. Motion carried and approved.

Next Parish Planning meeting will be Tuesday, June 18th at 7pm.

Next Voter's meetings to be held will be April 14th and July 14th, 2024 at 11 AM.

Motion to adjourn made by Joanne Hills and 2nd by Diane Spencer.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Mary Masker,
Secretary/Treasurer

APRIL 2024

Church Office: (989) 693-6322 Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703
 Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105
 Elders of the Month: Daniel Reinbold (989) 670-9048 & Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			7 pm Catechesis	10 am Ladies Aid	Pastor's Day Off	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>The First Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study 6 pm H.S. Catechesis		7 pm Elders	9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis		Pastor's Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>The Second Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Voters Meeting			9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis		Pastor's Day Off	7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>The Third Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study			9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Catechesis	<i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i>	Pastor's Day Off	
28	29	30				
<i>The Fourth Sunday after Easter</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 10:45 am Sunday School & Bible Study						

Serving Our Lord in the Month of April

Elders for April

Aaron Reinbold & Steven Reinbold

Ladies Aid for April

Jean Trisch & Joanne Hills

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Refreshments: Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill, Susan Pfund

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Stephen Bender

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Refreshments: Sarah Reid, Joanne Reinbold, Leslie Reinbold

Propers Choir: Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Bible Study Babysitter: Alberta Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Refreshments: Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer, Laura Starkey

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Pamela Ill & Alberta Reinbold

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Refreshments: Bev Voss, Cindy Voss, Helene Weber

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Melinda & Isabella Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Steven Reinbold

**If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

**If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.