



Messenger

**April
2024**

Pastor Al's Message

“And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, the women went to the tomb... As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe... he said, Jesus has been raised... they went out and fled the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (excerpt from Mark 16:1-8)

“We are thinking about the mystery of the gospel, and this, I believe, is at the heart of that mystery: namely, that the good news always has to be discovered, rediscovered, received, and articulated ever anew. (Waiting on Gospel, Hall)

In Mark's gospel, as the women experience the good news of the empty tomb, they are initially surprised, and even, terrified. One reality that Mark's Easter narrative reveals is that knowing and genuinely experiencing the gospel anew can be startling and disturbing; before it sinks in and sets us free. It's an ongoing cycle that renews our faith and draws us into life.

At times, I believe Easter can just become a proclamation of Jesus' triumph. I don't know how often the good news of Easter startles or disturbs us. I don't know how often the good news that Jesus is going to meet us, back in our real day to day lives, to prepare a place for us in the midst of his work, is unsettling to us.

I agree with Douglas John Hall. I believe that as we celebrate Easter it is good to acknowledge that, “the good news always has to be discovered, rediscovered, received, and articulated ever anew.” The good news of Easter, of the risen Jesus, is not routine. It is meant to disturb our routine, and by so, renew our faith and lives.

So, an important detail of Mark's Easter narrative is that the gospel will disturb us. That's the first step. Only after we experience the gospel anew in disturbingly beautiful ways will we be able to share it with others... be it for others. To share the gospel in a way that truly meets others in the midst of their joys and struggles, we cannot think that we can simply share some box-set of beliefs *about* God.

I believe this is why the Apostle Paul genuinely asks the Ephesians to pray for him that he might be given a message to speak... to real people... so that they might experience the *mystery* of the gospel; God's presence through his presence. Jesus presence through our presence.

This is my hope for myself and for our whole community of faith. Throughout our Easter celebration, I long that we all will experience, reflect on, and internalize God's good news - God's presence - in such a way that we will be able to go out and enter into the lives of others, both the joys and suffering of others, and so, truly share and experience good news.



Peace,

Pastor Al

Sinai Lutheran Church welcomes, challenges, and nurtures disciples to serve the church and love God's world.



Thanks to all who supported the Lenten envelope offering to the Foodbank of the Heartland. \$379 was donated!

Flowers beautifying the sanctuary on Easter morning were given in memory, in honor or thankfulness by the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kevin & Renee Coates | in memory of loved ones |
| Shirley Harris | in memory of Roger Harris |
| Jim & Annette Holtom | in honor of family & friends |
| Phillip Johannes | in memory of Holly Johannes |
| Nancy Kincanon | in memory of Dale & Marcie Garrison and Alex Lamme |
| Adam, Jill, Ava, Max Lamprecht | in memory of Rick Hayden |
| Leroy & Jan Ostransky | in memory of loved ones |
| Gary & Kathy Overfield | in memory of loved ones |
| Mark, Shannon, Madison & Miles Ostransky | in memory of Clayton "Moose" Shoemaker in honor of family & friends |
| Joan Nordstrom | in memory of Dave Nordstrom |
| Doyle & Jeanne Schwaninger | in memory of Jill Schwaninger |
| Diane Vyhldal | blessings of family |
| Ward & Emily Wageman | in memory of Bryan Gloe |

Carol Joy Holling Explore Day Retreat for 1st-6th Graders will be held on Saturday, April 20th, 9-3:30pm. It gives students an opportunity to experience a day of adventure and faith-building at the camp. Cost is \$25 and rides can be arranged to the camp and back. A day retreat for Moms is being planned around this event too! Check it out at cjhcenter.org/Explore or contact Emily for more information.

Worship and Music committee will meet on Sunday, April 14, after the 10:30am worship service.

Emily will be out of the office on Thursday April 4 and Friday, April 5th.



Bell, Adult and Sinai Singer/Ringers will not rehearse on Wednesday, April 3rd after Easter Sunday. The last rehearsal for the adult choirs this spring will be on May 15th. Sinai Singers/Ringers' last rehearsal is May 1.

Thank you to all who supported the Wednesday evening Lenten Meals with your attendance and donations. Free-will donations supported the youth on their summer Gathering trip and for future mission trips. Thanks to the Berry family for use of Thrivent Action Team for their support for the expenses of the meals. Thanks to the HS youth and Confirmation families, Social Ministry and Fellowship and soup preparers for preparing and serving the soups. So tasty!

HS Senior, Zachary Berry, parents and family will tie his graduation quilt on Wednesday, April 18th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall with our quilt experts!



THE BIG GIVE The Fremont Area Big Give is a 24-hour online giving challenge on **May 7th** to raise dollars for over 82 nonprofits in the area. Whether it is \$10 or \$10,000, every dollar makes a difference. Check it out at www.fremontareabiggive.org

The Omaha Chapter of American Guild of Organists invites you to a Young Organists Recital on **Sunday, April 14, 3pm** at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street, Omaha. No admission charge. Flyer is on the bulletin board.

We will pack Lutheran World Relief personal care kits on Sunday, April 14th between worship in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join us!



The Messenger is also available on our website: www.sinailutheran.com



PRUDENCE-NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **Monday, April 15th at 7:00 pm** at the home of Joan Nordstrom as Gloria Breithaupt leads the Bible Study. We will continue with session four on the study Scripture and Nature: Food. If you have questions, contact the office. All are welcome!

RUTH CIRCLE AND CHARITY CIRCLES meet on the third Wednesdays in Sinai's narthex. The next meeting led by Pastor Al will be on **Wednesday, April 17th at 1:00pm.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION will be held between services from 9:15-10:15 in the fellowship hall. Join us for fellowship with a treat and drinks and is open to all ages where little ones are welcome.

April 7- Table Tents

April 14- Pack Lutheran World Relief Kits with the Sunday School Students

April 21- Pastor will lead the New Testament Bible teaching on Jesus and the Gospels

April 28- Pastor will lead the New Testament Bible teaching on Acts of the Apostles

May 5- Table Tents

May 14- No AFF, Graduation reception

May 19- Pastor will lead the New Testament Bible teaching on Paul and the Letters

Deepest Sympathy

We pray for the family and friends of:

Brenda Allerheiligen
(cousin's wife to Shirley Harris)
died 3/27/24

Kayla Alberts
(cousin's daughter to Scott Flanagan)

"So you have pain now: but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you"

John 16:22

The Nebraska Synod's GO AND... Have the Conversation for April is below. A spiritual practice, praying with beads, for this month are located in the narthex.

GO AND...

Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore - God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to Go and... to go out, go share, go proclaim, and to go tell the story.

Questions to Consider:

- What is one of your favorite Bible stories?
- Is there a prop or tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you GO and tell the story?

Prayer: Master Storyteller, your stories seem almost unbelievable. Open us to recognize your patience, deep love, and grace. Help me be a storyteller. Amen.

Suggested Song: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org

TELL THE STORY

APRIL 2024 Serving in Worship

SIW continued on page 7

April 7, 2024	8:00	10:30
Presiding Minister	Pr. Al Duminy	Pr. Al Duminy
Organist	Claire Bushong	Claire Bushong
Assisting Minister	-----	Doyle Schwaninger
Prayer Minister	-----	Emily Wageman
Lector	Jan Ostransky	Rachel Wageman
Worship Hosts	Shirley Harris	Kerstin O'Connor
Acolyte	Leroy Ostransky	Max Berry
Comm. Asst	Shannon Ostransky	Deb McCord, Janet Lack
Communion Helper	Miles Ostransky	Max Lamprecht
Children's Word	Aaron Wulf	Aaron Wulf
Choir/Cantor	Cheri Anderson	Sinai Singers
Ushers	Leroy Ostransky, Mark Ostransky	Gary Ehmcke, Karen Gay
Altar Guild	-----	Gary & Kathy Overfield
Fellowship	Jan Kruse, Bev Reco	
Eucharist Bread	Deb McCord	-----
April 14, 2024	8:00	10:30
Asst Minister	-----	Emily Wageman
Prayer Minister	-----	Helmut Yurk
Lector	Mike Winterfeld	Lu Ann Ehmcke
Worship Hosts	Jan Ostransky	Stacie Radford
Acolyte	Isaac Harris	Janet Lack
Children's Word	Pr. Al Duminy	Pr. Al Duminy
Communion Asst.	Nancy Strong	Cheri Anderson, Joyce Myers
Communion helper	-----	Max Berry
Ushers	Mike Winterfeld, Brett Harris	Ron Harpster, Ron Johnson
Choir/Cantor	Cheri Anderson	Adult Choir
Altar Guild	-----	Richard & Joyce Myers
Fellowship	Jan O, Winterfields, Jan O	
Eucharist Bread	Deb McCord	-----
April 21, 2024	8:00	10:30
Presiding Minister	Pr. Al Duminy	Pr. Al Duminy
Organist	Claire Bushong	Claire Bushong
Asst Minister	-----	Helmut Yurk
Prayer Minister	-----	Cheri Anderson
Lector	Paul Peterson	Carrie Paper
Worship Hosts	Leroy Ostransky	Jodeen Yurk
Acolyte	Madison Ostransky	Emily Wageman
Children's Word	Rebecca Winterfeld	Janet Lack
Communion Asst.	Mike Winterfeld	Kathy & Gary Overfield
Communion helper	-----	Macy Livasy
Ushers	Leroy & Jan Ostransky	Keith Kramme, Tyler Mensik
Choir/Cantor	Emily Wageman	Emily Wageman, Bell Choir, Recorders
Altar Guild	-----	Bev Reco
Fellowship	Shirley Harris	
Eucharist Bread	Vicki Ruether	-----

The Messenger is also available on our website: www.sinailutheran.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed	2 Recycle Pickup 9:45 am Staff mtg	3 No choirs or activities	4 Emily out of the office	5 Office Closed	6
7 8 & 10:30am Worship 9-15am SS, Adult FF 9:25am SS rehearse	8 MU Campus Ministry using kitchen	9 9:45am Staff mtg	10 8:30am Financials 1:30pm Quilters 4:30pm Bell choir 6:00pm Sinai S/R 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir	11 6:30pm Communion instruction	12	13
14 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am SS, LWR kit packing 11:30am Worship & Music meeting	15 7:00pm Prudence Naomi Circle	16 Recycle Pickup 9:45am Staff mtg	17 Committee Reports due 1:00pm Circle Bible Study 4:30pm Bell choir 6:00pm Sinai S/R 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir	18 6:30pm Quilt tying	19 10am Nye Bible Study	20 CJH Explore Day retreat
21 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am SS, Adult FF- Jesus & Gospels	22	23 9:45am Staff mtg 7:00pm Council Meeting	24 8:30am Financials 4:30pm Bell choir 6:00pm Sinai S/R 6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir	25	26 7:30am Family Room reserved	27
28 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am SS, Adult FF	29	30 Recycle Pickup 9:45am Staff Mtg	May 1 4:30pm Bell choir 6:00pm Sinai S/R 7:00pm Adult Choir	May 2	May 3	May 4

April 2024

Sinai Lutheran Church welcomes, challenges, and nurtures disciples to serve the church and love God's world.

April Birthdays

1 Cam	Schuknecht	14 Matilda	Kronberg
1 Madison	Mendlik	15 Riley	Gay
3 Michael	Winterfeld	16 Maris	Von Seggern
3 Alyssa	Nelson	17 Jon	Vyhlidal
4 Laura	Muenchrath	18 Lyla	Ruud
6 Zachary	Berry	18 Karen	Melang
10 Jamie	Zoucha	21 J. Ronald	Johnson
12 Blake	Kavan	26 Troy	Berry
12 Brett	Kavan	27 Paisley	Johnson
12 Cody	Vyhlidal	29 Mark	Harpster
13 Kendrix	Baughman	29 Ethan	Bogenreif
		30 Alex	Berry

April Anniversaries

- 4 Brian & Shari Harris
- 5 Gary & Cindy German
- 11 Russell & Julie Schneekloth
- 22 Larry & Mary Zimmerman



April Flowers

- April 7 K. Gay
- April 14 D. Vyhlidal
- April 21 C & M Westergren
- April 28 J. Nordstrom
- May 5 G & L Ehmcke

In praise of church musicians: Great leaders of congregational song attend to the new community formed every time a church gathers.

by **Peter W. Marty**

Much of the meaning we find in our personal lives stems from contributions by people we often neglect to thank. Individuals who impact us in untold ways inadvertently get overlooked. Some of the unsung heroes who've helped make me who I am are church musicians. Worship organizes my life and centers my soul in ways that you can only know by knowing me. But the music of worship is what has helped generate the particular kind of person I am.

Gifted church musicians know how to help people sing together. They're genius at helping a congregation get "lost in wonder, love, and praise," to borrow Charles Wesley's words, without simply getting lost. Week in and week out, these practitioners enlarge individual worlds, send chills up spines, and remind worshipers that singing is not an external option for our lives; it's an internal component of being fully human. This column is for all those who help congregations make music on a weekly basis but who might not often hear how much their work matters to those around them.

Every time a congregation gathers, a new community must form. Even if the assembly just met the previous week, its character has altered. Various component parts have shifted. Bodies have aged, however slightly. New joys have walked in the door. Fresh sorrows have settled into a back pew. Two tenors from the choir are missing. An elder has died. A baby gets happily passed around. A funny bulletin typo has people whispering. One of the spotlights above the pulpit is flickering annoyingly.

It's the musicians who must pay attention to all of the nuances of this new community. They have the job of listening closely to everything that's going on. They must assume responsibility for helping the boundaries and distinctions of this diverse group of people relax enough to become fresh solidarity. This is hard work that requires no small degree of faith, skill, and humility. But if it's successful, a bonding of people will occur. A thickness of congregational spirit will emerge. A weight of mystery will fill up the interior dimensions of people's lives. Those who thought they couldn't sing, or who don't want to sing, suddenly find themselves enveloped in lovely ways by the resonant voice of the church singing together.

Excellent church musicians—whether they play piano, lean into an organ, lead a band, compose music, or direct a choir—are theologians in their own right. They're people convinced that the glory of God is central to honest worship and not just some Jesus-y feelings that can well up inside the bellies of hungry worshipers. They're busy fighting for the congregation to find its voice, yearning for each and every soul to discover that singing is sacred duty. Church musicians who have given the greatest shape to my life are those who appear to delight more in getting music into my soul than just out of theirs. Yes, the talent of their hands, feet, and vocal cords may be awesome, which is beautiful. But the way they deploy their abilities determines whether the rest of us feel bigger or smaller than when we arrived.

Eugene Peterson suggests that song is the result of excess energy. "When we are normal, we talk," says Peterson. "When we are dying, we whisper. But when there is more in us than we can contain, we sing." The next time you find yourself in worship experiencing more joy than you can hold inside yourself, sing like your life depends on it. And then, flag down your music leader on your way out the door to let them know of your gratitude.

Thanks to Diane Harpster for sharing this article in thankfulness of Sinai's music ministry.

Caring for and Helping Others



The food pantry collection basket will offer a change in recipient from month to month. The items needed are typically the same, but we will collect for **Midland's cupboard** in April, **LifeHouse pantry** in May, and continue then every other month. Any pantry or non-perishable items accepted and a special list is posted on the bulletin board for the Cupboard.



Calling all Quilters! Carol Joy Holing has set the date for their quilt auction for July 27th. Quilts of all sizes are welcome, but buyers usually look for standard-size quilts. If you want to prepare for a donation, you have between June 3 and July 22 to deliver the quilts with a color or photo of the quilt with the name and city of individual donating. There are additional instructions and if you need more information, please contact the office. If you have donated in the past, you most likely received the mailing. Happy quilting!



Serving in worship

continued from page 4

April 28, 2024	8:00	10:30
Presiding Minister	Pr. Al Duminy	Pr. Al Duminy
Organist	Claire Bushong	Claire Bushong
Asst Minister	-----	Cheri Anderson
Prayer Minister	-----	Karen Gay
Lector	David Bentley	Milo Anderson
Worship Hosts	Renee Coates	Eldene Thomsen
Acolyte	Julie Kavan	Macy Livasy
Children's Word	Pr. Al Duminy	Pr. Al Duminy
Communion Asst.	Renee Coates	Lindy Hoyer, Emily Wageman
Communion helper	-----	Jasmine Navrude
Ushers	Shirley Harris, Brett Harris	Richard & Joyce Myers
Choir/Cantor	Paul Peterson	Adult Choir
Altar Guild	-----	Ron & Diane Harpster
Fellowship	Renee C, Sarah S, Karen G	
Eucharist Bread	Vicki Ruether	-----
May 5, 2024	8:00	10:30
Asst Minister	-----	Chris Bogenreif
Prayer Minister	-----	Diane Harpster
Lector	Jan Ostransky	Zac Berry
Worship Hosts	Mike Winterfeld	Mary Von Seggern, K-3rd Graders
Acolyte	Shannon Ostransky	Teagan Curtis
Children's Word	Doyle Schwaninger	Doyle Schwaninger
Communion Asst.	Julie Kavan	Aaron Wulf, Zac Berry
Communion helper	Miles Ostransky	Garrett Schucknecht
Ushers	Mark Ostransky, Mike Winterfeld	Gary Overfield, Aaron Wulf
Choir/Cantor		Sinai Singers, Bell Choir
Altar Guild	-----	Julie Navarrette
Fellowship	Jan Kruse, Bev Recoy	
Eucharist Bread	Jan Ostransky	-----



SINAI LUTHERAN CHURCH

950 E. 8th St. • Fremont, NE 68025

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Lives Under Construction....



ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT ON CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the

ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

Join the NE Synod on zoom on April 11 at 7 p.m. for conversation about the statement. Together, we will walk through the statement and explore what is in it and what that means. We are very excited to have 3 task force members from the ELCA join us for the conversation as well as Rev. Dr. Ashley Hall from Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church. You are encouraged to read the document ahead of time but you are welcome even if you haven't read it and we will be walking through it together. We hope to engage in lively conversation so bring your questions!

Join us again on zoom on April 18 at 7 pm for a formal hearing of the statement with task force members. A formal hearing assumes that you have read and understand the document and you are coming ready to share you thoughts and opinions. While there will still be discussion, this is more of a chance to share specific affirmations or concerns about the statement. All feedback is recorded and shared with the task force. Once they have gathered information from hearings across the country, they will re-evaluate the draft statement.

**You do not need to attend all events. You may attend just the conversation or just one of the hearings. However, you will probably get the most benefit out of a hearing if you attend the conversation.

If you would like to attend or read the statement, contact the office for the draft statement and zoom links.