



# MONONA MESSENGER

## APRIL 2019

### + THE SHOUT OF EASTER +

A Christian young man had prevailed upon an unbelieving friend to accompany him to church on Easter morning. The minister read the account of the Savior's resurrection in the Gospel for the day and then preached on the triumphant words of Paul in I Corinthians 15: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But **thanks** be to God, which giveth us the **Victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ."

In glowing terms he spoke of the glories of the Christian life, dwelling impressively on its victory over sin, death, and the power of the grave. With eloquent fervor he proclaimed the Christian's certainty of final resurrection and eternal life with Jesus Christ, his Savior.

With a jubilant conviction that swept over the entire congregation the minister quoted the well-known hymn: "He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there."

On the way home from church the Christian young man asked his friend what he thought of the service. He replied: "If I believed what your minister said, I'd spend the rest of my life shouting about it. I don't see how anyone could believe what he said and then just go home as if he hadn't heard it." What an indictment—and what a challenge for each of us!

We who have heard the Easter message year after year, have we learned to shout about it? Have we learned not only to "come and see" but also to "go and tell"? Have we learned to spread the incredible news that He is risen?

Surely this is news too good to keep! The Son of God who was dead is gloriously **alive**. And we have His pledge and promise that because **He** lives, **we**, too, shall live. Could the God of heaven have given us any headline more thrilling, more electrifying, more worthy of being shouted from the housetops, more worthy as the most precious of gifts to be shared among our family and friends—not only on Easter morning but on every morning of the year?

As we leave worship on Easter morning—on **every** Sunday—may our hearts be bursting with the ineffable joy of our Savior's resurrection. And may that joy find eloquent expression in our daily lives. Then we shall experience the holy rapture of the poet who exclaimed:

*"Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs To all, wherever I might be, What great things God hath done for me."* A most blessed and joyous Easter to each of you!

In Christ, the Gift to be shared,

*Pastor Nowak*

**Zone 16 LWML Spring Gathering:**

When? *Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
Where? *Good Shepherd by the Lake, Stoughton*  
What time? *Registration: 8:30 a.m.*  
Guest Speakers? *Ellen & Steve Peck*

Please consider joining us for Bible Study, Christian fellowship, information on MOST ministries mission trip taken by Ellen & Steve to Tanzania, and a luncheon. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning!

**Ronald McDonald:** *Pop Tab Collection:* Don't forget we are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Just put them in the container on the counter of the Welcoming Area. RMHC collects pull tabs since they have significant value in the recycling industry and they do not have the storage to collect cans.

RMHC collects pull tabs for two reasons:

- 1. Pull tabs have significant value in the recycling industry as they represent the purest form of aluminum.
- 2. RMHC does not have the storage space to collect cans.

**Lutheran Night with the Milwaukee Admirals:**

Join the Admirals and fellow Lutherans for an evening of fellowship, fun and Hockey! Plus, each Lutheran Night ticket comes with an exclusive Admirals Hockey Puck Keychain.

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Panther Arena;  
400 W. Kilbourn Ave; Milwaukee;  
begins at 6:00 pm; tickets are \$19.00.

Families can order tickets by contacting Kevin Karlson, 414-227-0564 and let him know you are with Lutheran Night/South Wisconsin District.

**House of Thrift News:** The store is located at 201 Cottage Grove Road. Their hours are Monday through Friday 9 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm. Donations are welcome during these hours. Please call them at 223-1228 if you have any questions or would like to become part of the *House of Thrift* team. Members of Monona work on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

**Portals of Prayer** is a great little devotional book that can use for daily reading. The April, and June issue is available on the in the Narthex and in the Welcoming. Feel free to pick up one for yourself share with a friend.



**TLC Groups:**

The ***Tuesday morning*** Tender Loving Care group will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at Pastor's house beginning at 9:00 am. The ***Thursday evening*** group meets in the church library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 pm. This is a great group if you want to strengthen your faith, get to know your fellow members better, introduce a friend or neighbor to our congregation. Everything that is discussed is and remains confidential. Once you experience a TLC group you'll never want to give it up. Please plan to attend one of these groups.

**Lenten Devotions** are available from the Lutheran Hour Ministries. "*People of the Passion*" copies can be found on the tables in the Narthex and also in the Welcoming Area. Please take one and also one for a friend.



**Mid-Week Services & Themes 2019**

*"From Agony to Ecstasy"*

Services begin at 6:30 p.m.

***April 3<sup>rd</sup>*** *"You're in Good Hands"*  
Mark 14:41c, 46; Luke 24:39; 1 Tim. 2:8; Luke 23:46

***April 10<sup>th</sup>*** *"Voices That Will Be Heard"*  
Ps. 19:1-4; Luke 23:23; Mark 15:34, 37; Rev. 5:11-13

**HOLY WEEK**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Palm/Passion Sunday** *April 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*w/Communion* *9:00 a.m.*

**Maundy Thursday** *April 18<sup>th</sup>*  
*w/Communion* *6:30 p.m.*

**Good Friday** *April 19<sup>th</sup>*  
*1:00 p.m.*  
*7:00 p.m.*



**Easter Sunday** *April 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*Breakfast 7:30 a.m.*

**Easter Celebration** *Worship 9:00 a.m.*  
*w/Communion*



# *Steward Builders*

*A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.*

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

HAPPY  
EASTER

## **Not with Gold or Silver**

*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ..."* (1 Peter 1:18-19).

God, Who created us to be His own, bought us back from sin, death, and Satan with the blood of His Son. There is not enough wealth in the universe that could effect our salvation. We cannot do enough good works to earn our way into Heaven. There is only one way. This is a message that needs to be told and retold. It is not a message of exclusivity, as some claim, but inclusiveness, for God *"wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4). This salvation is a free gift, not something that can be bought or earned.

We, the Body of Christ, are responsible to tell the message. It is our privilege to use

our gifts of gold and silver and deeds to enable others to go where we cannot go, to speak to those whom we will never meet. It is a never-ending task, for each generation brings new challenges and opportunities. When will my work be ended? How much should I give? The work is not ended till our lives on this Earth are ended. Christ gave His all – His life! He asks us to give proportionately according to our incomes. Let us give as God has given to us: freely, unreservedly, joyfully.

We give You but Your own  
In any gifts we bring.  
All that we have is Yours alone,  
A trust from You, our King.



## **The Parable of the Rice Field**

There is a parable told in India about the selfish man who inherited a rice field. The first year the man irrigated the field and it was fruitful. The water, in fact, flowed onto his neighbor's field and this too produced a bountiful harvest.

But the next year the selfish man decided: Why should I let this water flow through my field into his? Water is precious, and I must keep it. So, he built a dam. This prevented the water from flowing into his neighbor's field, but it proved disastrous to his own crop as well. Irrigation water nourished the field only if it flowed. When it did not move, because of the dam, the water became stagnant and the field a swamp.

We own no rice fields. Still, the parable is clear. Think of what we have inherited from God; think of all He has given us. If we are selfish and keep it all for ourselves, our lives become stagnant, a dismal swamp of mere existence. But if we give back to God by giving to others, both the giver and the receiver share in the fruits of God's love.

### **Whatever, Lord**

Whatever our position or status in life we are called to share God's love in acts of service to all people. "*Love your neighbor as yourself*" is a command that reaches out to everyone. Paul, in Galatians 6:10, exhorts His readers, "*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*" Jesus Himself said, "*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me*" (Matthew 25:40).

The Good Samaritan showed us how to "*do good to all people*" when he came across the beaten traveler on the Jericho Road. He not only gave his money, but, more important, he freely invested himself into the well-being of the injured man. Following the lead of his servant heart, he put aside his own agenda in order to provide for a greater need. When the time comes, we, too, will need to "get off our donkeys and do something." Helping may mean more than calling "911". We may need

to get involved, get our hands dirty, and go the extra mile. God may want us to be willing to move out of the limelight into the shadows and suffer some inconvenience in order to be somebody's servant. He may request that we help others in work that seems menial, tiresome, dirty, and ill-timed. Willingness to serve God means that we are prepared to do the small things or the large things—it makes no difference. Whenever any opportunity to serve presents itself we need to be ready.



### **Receiving and Giving**

There is a phrase that states, "The mind grows by what it takes in—the heart grows by what it gives out." Interestingly, stewardship involves both taking in and giving out. What God gives us, we are to receive graciously and thankfully. Recognizing that the many God-given gifts we receive can be used to further God's kingdom, we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:11). God gives so we can give. Thus, the cycle continues: God gives, we receive, we give, and God replenishes.

### **Church Signs:**

"I HATE THIS CHURCH  
---- SATAN"

"WALMART ISN'T THE ONLY SAVING  
PLACE"

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

**The next Healing Service** will be held again on Sunday, **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019** after the service. If you have a burden or sickness that you would like to commend to the Lord, this would be a great time to do so. Copies of the service can be found on the table in the narthex for your convenience.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:**

Please join us on Sunday's after the service as we begin to study the Book of Daniel.

**Monona's LWML** group will be getting together again on *Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>*, beginning at 9:00 am to continue with the service project. If you have questions, please call Jana Hoffmann at 244-5154 or email theoffers3@hotmail.com.

**Rebecca's Garden:**

Our tutoring program continues to flourish, thanks to the efforts and contributions by many. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gary Steingraber.

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

The book of Exodus is the current topic Wednesday mornings. Feel free to join us if you have the opportunity. We meet in our Library from 10 to 11 am.

**Blood Drive:** Our next scheduled blood drive is Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 pm. The collection site will be at Lake Edge UCC on Buckeye. If you are interested in donating, please contact Ann Rubin at 221-1495 and she will be able to make an appointment for you. Thanks for all of your support in the past with donations and volunteering.

**Our Website** – Many useful items are available on our website, mononalutheran.org. Under the Commentaries tab are Dr. Krubsack's comments on the upcoming scripture lessons. This gives you the opportunity to preview the lessons before Sunday, review them after Sunday, or read them if you miss a service. Plus they are available to non-members as well. There is also a copy of the current month's newsletter and calendar in case you misplace your paper copy.

**The 2019 Flower Chart** is hanging up on the wall in front of the office. Please consider placing fresh flowers on the altar in honor or in memory of someone special or just because.



**Prayer Chain**

Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like *it's* just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, call our Prayer chain. You may give your prayer requests to Angie TerMaat at 608-246-9608, Susan Bartlett at 608-437-5765, or the church office at 222-7071 or call if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

**“Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
listen to my cry for mercy.”**



**APRIL CELEBRATIONS**

Marcia Hur 2  
Anna Rutherford 5



3/3 John & Diana Russell - 48 years  
3/12 Bess & Jess MacLeod-11 years

*Congratulations & God's Blessings!*

**Together with One Heart:** Join us in celebrating together, a church service, fellowship, delicious ethnic food, entertainment and door prizes.

When: Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
1205 S East Ave  
Waukesha, WI

Doors open at 8:30 am and lunch will be provided (free-will offering).

Register today @ [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). For more information, call or text Mai Thao at 414-531-3661 or email [mnthao1@gmail.com](mailto:mnthao1@gmail.com).

**Food Pantry:** There is always a need for food pantry items. Next time you are out shopping, add a couple things to your cart for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Donations of food, personal items, paper products and large sized diapers are all gratefully received.

You can place your donations in the little red wagon in the Welcoming Area. Many thanks to those who regularly donate and to Woodie Meyer for taking our items to St. Stephen's.



**MONONA MESSENGER**

Newsletter of: Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC-MS  
4411 Monona Dr.  
Monona, WI 53716

Address Service Requested



**Divine Worship**

Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
Monday Evening 6:30 p.m.

**Communion Services**

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.  
Midweek Lenten & Advent  
Vespers 6:30 p.m.  
NO Monday Worship on Legal Holidays

**Sunday Christian Education Hour**

Adult Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:15 am Sept. - May

**Pastor:** Rev. Thomas Nowak

**Office Phone:** 608.222.7071

**E-mail:** [mlc-ms@hotmail.com](mailto:mlc-ms@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.mononalutheran.org](http://www.mononalutheran.org)

**MAY 2019**

Messenger Deadline

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

**NO LATE ARTICLES**

Please submit articles by this date.

Email to: [mlc-ms@hotmail.com](mailto:mlc-ms@hotmail.com)

or leave a copy on the office desk

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

“Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching”