

April 2022

The Lord be with you.

HOPE

The Bible has a lot to say about hope. You can break all of it down into two large categories, false hope and true hope. While there can be sub-categories, these are the two main categories. False hope includes sub-categories like placing our hope in man, or placing our hope in idols, or even placing our hope in a mighty military. So God tells us: "The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue" (Psalm 33:17). [Personally, I'm hoping Putin realizes this sooner rather than later.] Napoleon trusted the "war horse." He is quoted as saying, "God is on the side with the best artillery." Napoleon ended his life in exile, his hope in the "war horse" crushed.

The Bible has a lot to say about true hope as well. Such a hope is always a hope in the Lord. Paul reminds us that this "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5 NASV). Easter is a marvelous example of this.

As Good Friday dawned, the disciples of Jesus were in turmoil. Their Lord had been arrested and carted off to Jerusalem. He first faced the Jewish leadership, who condemned him to death. Then he was taken to Pilate who, when all was said and done, confirmed the death sentence and carried it out. The disciples had scattered. Even Peter had denied knowing Jesus to save himself. As the day wore on, Jesus was crucified, suffered, died and was buried. The disciples had hoped in Jesus, but it seemed their hope was misplaced (John 14:1; Acts 24:27).

The way of Christian hope is not a promise of ease. Those who teach such things simply do not understand the Scriptures. God always has opponents. Those opponents are also the opponents of the Church, of you, and all Christians. At times, things can seem hopeless to human reason. That is when we "hope against hope," as Abraham did when he was promised a son by Sarah even though they both were beyond the point in life when having a child was possible (Romans 4:18).

When Easter dawned, all of Jesus' followers were convinced he was dead. Jesus changed that! First Jesus appeared to the ladies, and they became convinced that Jesus was alive (Matthew 28:9). Then he appeared to ten of his disciples and they became convinced he was alive (John 20:19). He also appeared to two unnamed disciples as they traveled to Emmaus and they became convinced Jesus was alive (Luke 24:13-35). These are the Easter appearances of Jesus, but he continued to show himself alive for forty days. After that he ascended back to heaven (Luke 24:50-51).

Being convinced that Christ rose from the grave, the believers took their hope to the world following Pentecost. The resurrection of Jesus, who is the first fruit of those who die in the Christian Faith, carried with it the promise that we too will rise from the dead on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 15:23; 2 Corinthians 4:13-15). On that Day we will have immortal bodies, ones that do not age (1 Corinthians 15:35-58). We will be like the resurrected Jesus (Philippians 3:20-21).

Hope is a word about the future. No one hopes for what they already have. The Christian hope is the same. Our hope is about the future. The ultimate Christian hope is our resurrection from the dead with our renewed, spiritual yet also physical bodies, on the Day Christ returns. It will be the "Easter" of every Christian as we step forth from the grave like Jesus did. This is a sure hope; a hope that does not disappoint. It is our "hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2).

May the hope of the resurrection be yours, not only this Easter, but at all times.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor





DIGGING IN The Nicene Creed Third Article, Part 2

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, **the Lord** and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Last month we began considering the Third Article of the Nicene Creed by remembering that the Council of Nicaea that met in 325 only had "I believe in the Holy Spirit" for the third article. It was the second ecumenical council, which met in Constantinople in 381, which added the bulk of the remaining words. In the sixty-one years between these two councils arose teachers that denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit as well as his personhood. The framers of the Third article needed to address these, and other issues. For various reasons, they limited themselves to words found in the Bible. The first addition to the article was the word "Lord."

In 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, the Holy Spirit is expressly called "Lord," "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ... For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

In Isaiah 61 the Spirit is also called Lord:

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn; (Isaiah 61:1-2)

So we discover that the Holy Spirit is given the title of "Lord" in both testaments.

While it is true that the Greek word Kurios (kuvrio~) can mean something as mild as "sir," it is clear from the context that we are dealing with much more than that! Lord is a synonym for "God." So, for example, when Paul greets the Romans with the words, "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," he is identifying Jesus as "God" when he calls him "Lord" (Romans 1:7).

The Early Church Father Ambrose (339-397) agrees. He wrote:

Earlier you read that "the Lord blessed Samson, and the Spirit of the Lord began to go with him." Further on it is said, "And the Spirit of the Lord came on him." Again he says, "If I shave, my strength will depart from me." And after he was shaven, look at what the Scripture says. "The Lord," it says, "departed from him." You see, then, that he who went with him is the same one who left him. The one, then, who is the Spirit of the Lord, is the Lord. In other words, he called the Spirit of God, *Lord*, just like the apostle does when he says, "The Lord is the Spirit. Now where the Spirit of *the Lord* is, there is liberty. You find, then, the Holy Spirit called the Lord. For the Holy Spirit and the Son are not one person but one substance. ON THE HOLY SPIRIT 2.I.17-18 (*Ancient Christian Doctrine 4 We Believe in the Holy Spirit* IVP Academic, 33)

We find that the Athanasian Creed perfectly captures the meaning of Scripture and the Nicene Creed when we confess, using its' words:

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord;
and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord

Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic (universal) religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

Next month we will turn our thoughts to the little phrase "giver of life." Until then, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen



Lent & Easter

The Gospel lessons begin with the parable of the evil tenants as a reminder to the Jewish leaders of their evil dealings with the people. Palm Sunday records Jesus hailed as King of the Jews by the crowds. The next event is the last supper and Judas' betrayal. The events of Holy Week and finally Jesus' Easter rising from the grave. We will spend two or three Sundays acknowledging the resurrection since it is pivotal in our worship activity.

In Paul's letter to Philippians, he stresses the danger in having confidence in the flesh. He points out that we must seek being perfected by the grace of God and through the Holy Spirit. Earlier Paul told of Jesus willingness to give up His godly nature and become a man so that He could pay the price for our sins.

Our observance of Holy Communion is taken from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 since Paul wanted us to cherish the sacrament and keep it holy in our lives. We are reminded in Hebrews that Jesus is our great High Priest who offered the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

As Paul wraps up his teaching on salvation, he points out that our spiritual nature will be revealed as Christ come for us in the last days and we ascend to heaven with the Lord.

The Easter celebration is the highlight of our church year and we are encouraged to dedicate our lives to the Lord now and throughout the year.

Arlen D. Besel—Worship



Suffering Servant

Devotions were written by Dr. Kari Vo..

When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" But He looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." (Luke 20:16b-18)

In ancient days, if you were going to build a stone house or temple, the cornerstone was the first piece of the foundation you would lay. It set the direction for both walls originating at it; it bore the weight of the whole house.



You would never want to pick a weak or crooked stone to do this job. It would mess up the whole building. No, you'd do your best to find a square or rectangular stone that was strong and straight, with no cracks or breaks in it.

And yet Jesus quotes Psalm 118 and makes it clear that He Himself is "the stone that the builders rejected," the one refused by the religious leaders, even to the point of arrest and death.

It's so tempting to call those men idiots. What were they thinking, to reject this cornerstone, Jesus our Lord? Did they want someone prettier—more impressive—someone weak and moldable who would do their bidding? That would be an utter disaster!

What we needed is exactly what God gave us—Jesus, who is strong enough to bear the weight of the entire world on His back, with all our sins and griefs and burdens. Jesus, who had no cracks or breaks in His own integrity, and no crookedness either. Jesus, who makes the entire building strong and holy—including all of us, the stones God is building upon Him.

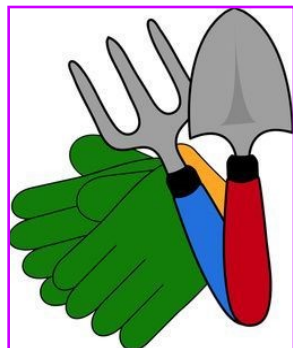
Because of Jesus' strength, we will never fall. Because of His love for us, we have become part of God's house, God's temple—where we are forever welcome, honored, and useful. You have a place in God's building—safe and strong, built on Jesus our Rock.

Arlen D. Besel – Ambassador

NEWS & NOTES

O.R.C.H.A.R.D Receives \$2500 Grant—Robin Billy

O.R.C.H.A.R.D Community Garden has received a \$2,500 grant for the purchase of a storage shed that will make garden equipment and tools accessible to all. The Urban Farmer & Gardner Mini Grant Program awarded the grant through the New Castle Conservation District.



This will be the fourth year for the O.R.C.H.A.R.D project. Our goal is to encourage more people in the neighborhood and surrounding community to join our garden. Building our membership will increase vegetable production so that members can not only grow healthy food for themselves, but also for others in need.

We requested funds for a shed because security for tools is necessary as we have had a wheel barrel stolen and a garden hose punctured because it was jammed in the small storage box with sharp tools.

Gardeners who have been carting tools back and forth will be able to store these items for easier use. We hold three work group project days each season. It takes almost as much time to haul garden equipment up and down the church basement steps as it does to get the work done.

Many garden members do not currently have access to larger equipment after church hours for security reasons. A shed with a combination lock, or assigned key, would allow them to work on their plot at their leisure. The shed will be no smaller than 10X 12 and would store up to three wheelbarrows, a lawnmower, shovels, hoses, and other equipment that would be accessible to members. It would be large enough to provide room for future equipment that O.R.C.H.A.R.D might acquire. We believe that providing a secure place to store tools and equipment will help continue to attract and generate more interest and involvement from our community neighbors.

O.R.C.H.A.R.D will continue to provide a productive and beautiful neighborhood garden space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. We want to build sense of community within the neighborhood and between the church and neighbors. We want this to be a place where people will not only want to garden by to socialize and enjoy nature. In doing this we hope to increase knowledge of, and donations to, the Food Bank of Delaware.

We look forward to seeing you all in the garden this spring and summer.

Congregational Life: Lenten Fellowship—Lina Bedsteter

Fellowship hour will follow the 7 pm. Lenten Services continue through April 6. Everyone is welcome to attend. COVID procedures will continue to be followed. Our future church activities will resume by "God's grace" when the outcome of the virus is determined. We pray that we can all meet together again for worship in the Lord's House. God's blessings to all!

Spring cleaning time & Build -A-Bag— Marybeth Cooley

Build-a-Bag/Women's Shelter Project: We will share an abundance of donated toiletries by filling cosmetic bags to donate to a women's shelter. We seek clean gently used, or new cosmetic bags and any free samples from store cosmetic counters that could provide a little something extra beyond the basics. This includes sample sizes of moisturizer, makeup, lipstick, lip balm, eye makeup and colognes. Collection boxes are located outside the church office and in the narthex. Please keep us in mind when cleaning your closets and drawers this spring. Join us to served the Lord and community. Build a Bag sessions will take a vacation until September. There will be no meeting April 11, 18, or 25. For more information, Marybeth Cooley 410-398-1452

YARD SALE—May 14

Help Wanted: Volunteers to help with yard sale set up, customer assistance, cashiers, and end of day clean up. Chestnut Hill Estates is having a community yard sale on Saturday May 14. Volunteer hours are approximately 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. It's an opportunity for Our Redeemer to participate in a community event and connect with our neighbors. You can volunteer for one of the jobs or stay as long as you want but it does not require an "all-day" commitment of your time. If enough people volunteer, then I will ask for donations of items for the church to sell on May 14. Also, a church information table will be set up with some free give aways. A volunteer sign up sheet will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Call or email Marybeth Cooley by April 24. 410-398-1452 cooleymb@aol.com

Little Lending Library— Julie Hockersmith

We continue to seek books so that we can restock the library at least once a month with children's books for all ages as well as some adult novels and history books.



The neighborhood continues to enjoy the library. We have received positive comments. The library allows us to communicate and stay in touch with the neighborhood. We need your help! We seek books, especially children's books and young adult novels. We have heard from other lending libraries that adult books tend to be returned more frequently than children's books. That appears to be happening in our library.

If you have any books that you would consider donating to us, we would appreciate it very much. If you have no books, but would like to help, the Elkton Salvation Army has children's books on sale for \$.50. On Wednesdays everything in the store is discounted.

If you need someone to pick up books at your house, I would be happy to do that. Thank you for any help you can give us.

Evangelism—Mike Cannatelli, Former Chair

The Evangelism Committee has completed the first part of its Facebook Advertisement for ORLC. Kathy O'Malley did the research and the actual work to get ORLC's Ad on Facebook. Her hard work has paid off. Kathy reported that during the 15-day period that the ad ran on Facebook, ORLC reached 4,300 people who saw the ad, and then got 90 clicks for more information that took them to the maps and directions page on the church's website.

This is fantastic. There are now 90 people who live in the 19713 zip code who didn't know ORLC was there and now knowing that, were at least interested enough to click to get more info to learn more about the church. From where I sit this Facebook ad did exactly what we wanted it to do. It let folks in the 19713 area know that ORLC is there and told them a bit about what ORLC does. Hopefully some of that 90 will either check out ORLC via online or by lighting the doorway for an in person visit, or even call the church office to ask more questions. Excellent job Kathy, Thank You.



The plan at this point was to run a second Facebook Ad for another 15 days from April 2nd to April 16th, and to possibly make that ad for the 19711 zip code to further spread out the area that would know about ORLC, but the new chairperson and the committee may have a different vision.

I just wanted to thank the folks on the Evangelism Committee: Arlen Besel, Kathy O'Malley, Laurel Pearson, and Kitty Rickert who made the various things our committee did since I took over as Chair in December 2021 a success. Hopefully these efforts will bring in new faces to ORLC.

Property Board Bob Cooley

The Property Board is in the process of an inventory of items being stored in the Church. The purpose is to eliminate items that no longer have a use or value to the Church, and limited storage space can be maximized. If you have anything that you are keeping at the Church, would you please identify it so that it is not arbitrarily removed. Items that no longer have a use but have a value may be sold at the upcoming CHECA yard sale and any realized funds will be returned to the Church. All other items with no use or value will be removed by trash collection later this Spring.



Also look for an updated property maintenance inspection schedule that will be shared with all. This will put everyone on the same page. It also will alert us to items that may need attention. The property board duties are also in the process of being reviewed and changes presented to the church council for suggestions and adoption.

Social Ministry—Ruth Hewlett

April is our month to collect food (canned and boxed goods) for LIFE. Baskets will be available for donations. Financial donations are also appreciated. Write LIFE on the memo line of the check. Thank you for your generosity for those in need. Baskets are located in the overflow room and the back of the narthex.

Orphan Grain Train

As you spring clean, please remember Orphan Grain Train. We need gently used clothing, household linens, blankets and bikes. Also wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.

Orphan Grain Train sent a shipment of relief aid to Malawi on 3/30. We collected supplies in excess of what we needed for that shipment. We seek additional donations to send to Europe for Ukraine refugees as soon as arrangements can be made for shipping.

Aid to Ukraine — OGT headquarters sent a 53 foot container of aid for the Ukrainian people to New York where it will be airlifted to Poland. Two more air cargo shipments are planned for Romania and Moldova to help Ukrainian Refugees. The Mid-Atlantic brand plans to join these efforts' when and where possible.

Please keep us in your prayers as we try to make this happen. If you have any gently used clothing or blankets you would like to send, please place them in the box in the narthex. Thanks!

Offering Envelopes

If you have not yet done so, please pick up your 2022 offering envelopes from the church office. There are still a few waiting for pickup. Please call the office 302-737-6176 if you would like them mailed to you.

Reminder—Pastor's Email Has Changed

Please update your files with Pastor's new email address as follows: pastor-orlde@outlook.com In preparation for retirement, Pastor Rickert will no longer be using personal email. This change will allow the new pastor to have a working email in place from the

Consideration for Donors ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

All items MUST be clean in good repair and gently used

We seek men's women's, children's and infant's clothing and shoes in all sizes for all seasons as well as:

- Purses, Handbags, Reusable shopping bags
- Accessories — scarves gloves, belts
- New (packaged) underwear

We also accept these non-apparel items:

- Bicycles
- Domestic Goods
 - ◊Curtains, drapes, tablecloths
 - ◊Sheets, blankets (no used pillows) and towels
 - ◊Sewing fabric and supplies
- Children's items
 - ◊Soft and hard toys in good condition
 - ◊School supplies, no books
- Personal care Items
 - ◊Hygiene Kits—see special projects under "What We Do" at www.ogt.org
 - ◊Diapers (packaged) Adult incontinence & infant
- Medical Items— canes, crutches, commodes, shower chairs, orthopedic supplies (i.e. boots, shoes), and wheel chairs
- Bibles, Hymnals

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

- Heavily worn damaged or stained clothing
- Used underwear—bras, underwear, used swim garments
- Glass, ceramic, electric or battery powered items
- Items displaying skills/crossbones or demeaning language

NEWSLETTER FUN!

I before E—Except when your foreign neighbor Keith received eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters—Weird! How many more can you come up with?



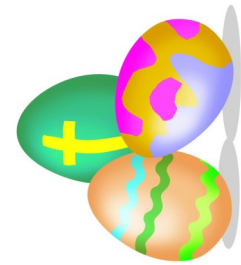
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Dan Cooley

14 Brian Kruelle

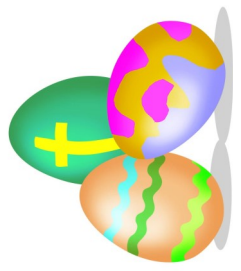
21 Andrew Steltz





April 2022

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor—Rev. Dr. John Rickert Organist—Julie Hockersmith David Rash	USHERS Arlen Besel Dennis Boon Jim Rose	LECTORS 4/3 Bob Cooley 4/10 Arlen Besel 4/17 Kevin Gerzevske 4/24 Robin Billy	STREAMING 4/3 Laurel Pearson 4/10 Robin Billy 4/17 E & S DiBenedetto 4/24			
3 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Communion Junior Confirmation 5 pm 	4 Announcement Deadline	5 Announcement Deadline	6 Lenten Worship & Fellowship 7 pm	7	8	9
10 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Palm Sunday/Communion 	11 Announcement Deadline	12 Announcement Deadline	13	14 Maundy Thursday Worship 7 pm	15 Good Friday Worship 7 pm	16
17 Easter Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Communion Easter Egg Hunt 11 am 	18 Announcement Deadline	19 Announcement Deadline	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 Worship—Divine 2, 10 am Communion Junior Confirmation 5 pm	25 Announcement Deadline	26 Announcement Deadline	27	28	29	30

APRIL BIBLE READINGS

1 Isaiah 25:1-9
Romans 1-3

2 Psalm 114
Romans 4-6

3 Psalm 115
Romans 7-9

4 Psalm 116
Romans 10-13

5 Psalm 117
Romans 14-16

6 Psalm 118
1 Corinthians 1-3

7 Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 4-6

8 Psalm 119:9-16
1 Corinthians 7-9

9 Psalm 119:17-24
1 Corinthians 10-11

10 Psalm 119:25-32
1 Corinthians 12-14

11 Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 15-16

12 Psalm 119:41-48
2 Corinthians 1-4

13 Psalm 119:49-56
2 Corinthians 5-7

14 Psalm 119:57-64
2 Corinthians 8-10

15 Psalm 119:65-72
2 Corinthians 11-13



16 Psalm 119:73-80
Galatians 1-3

17 Psalm 119:81-88
Galatians 4-6

18 Psalm 119:89-96
Ephesians 1-3

19 Psalm 119:97-104
Ephesians 4-6

20 Psalm 119:105-112
Philippians 1-2

21 Psalm 119:113-120
Philippians 3-4

22 Psalm 119:121-128
Colossians 1-2

23 Psalm 119:129-136
Colossians 3-4

24 Psalm 119:137-144
1 Thessalonians 1-3

25 Psalm 119:145-152
1 Thessalonians 4-5

26 Psalm 119:153-160
2 Thessalonians 1-3

27 Psalm 119:161-168
1 Timothy 1-3

28 Psalm 119:169-176
1 Timothy 4-6

29 Psalm 120
2 Timothy 1-2

30 Isaiah 25:1-9
2 Timothy 3-4