

# Our Redeemer's Voice

April 2026



## That Time of the Year



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

It's almost time for Easter. We'd know that even if we didn't live in the Christian Church. The pigs that were slaughtered several months ago are just about cured. The butchering takes place at a certain time, the curing takes a certain length of time, and that time happens to coincide with Easter which is why ham is one of the traditional Easter foods.

But that is only one thing that gives us a clue that Easter is almost upon us. From what I have heard in conversations, we were all pretty happy to mark the beginning of Spring on March 20th. It was certainly snowier than it had been in previous winters, and the cold seemed to linger. Yet the vernal equinox has

come as we knew it would. And this is a sign that Easter is almost here.


The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar. The Jewish holiday of Passover is always after the vernal equinox and always around the time of the full moon. The resurrection of our Lord and Passover are not the same holy day, but they do share a few things. The time when Jesus was crucified was before a Sabbath day, and it was not just any Sabbath but the Passover Sabbath. So the Christian festival of Easter and the Jewish festival of Passover are usually a few days apart. The day of Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. So we always know when the time for Easter will be.



Time plays such a crucial role in our living. When we are raising kids, this phrase is sometimes heard: "The days are so long but the years fly by." Isn't that right? When babies are teething, the nights can be so long. When your child is sick, the days can be so long. Trying to do homework with your kids can be interminably long. But the child you once rocked to sleep is soon learning three digit division and then is taking their driving test. And everyone in a family seems to have different definitions for 'now' and 'soon' and 'in a few minutes'.

The timing for Easter is important. It signals victory and triumph. It ushers in new life that never ends. It means joy and peace for today and all of our tomorrows. We are connected to Christ, so even when it seems that your life is full of losses, when anxiety and confusion threaten to overwhelm you, and when it seems that you are being pulled in every direction possible and rest is impossible, all of the Easter gifts remain with you. And they remain with you as long as you live. Easter comes at the right time, and the Easter joys are yours to use, enjoy, share, treasure.

In a matter of a few minutes I could tell you the dates for Easter in 2036, 2046, or what was the date of Easter in the year of your birth. But I want to focus on this reality: Easter comes at the right time.

Easter comes after a healthy time of reflection and preparation. I really think Easter would be diminished if there were no Lent, if we didn't put away a few things for a little while, 

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

if we didn't ramp up our meditation and prayers, if we didn't spend some time in fellowship and worship. (I think the same way about the necessity of Advent prior to Christmas.)

Easter is a 365 day reality. Jesus is living! What a blessed reality that is as I scan my life. While I, along with my brother, go about taking care of our aging parents, it is helpful to talk with Jesus in prayer and remember that He walks with my parents in these years. And Jesus is with my children as they grow and move through life. The living Jesus is with me throughout all the activities of both of my workplaces. Jesus is with me in my travels on your behalf, for the LWML, in helping a car-less coworker get to and from work. The Lord Jesus demonstrates his compassion for me, sometimes consoling me, sometimes challenging me, giving me energy, and always reminding me that I am forgiven and loved.

You could put yourself in that previous paragraph. What I wrote about me applies to you. Jesus accompanies you to your medical appointments. Jesus listens to your prayers in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. Jesus calls you to account, commends you for your faithfulness, and is pleased to see the way you share His gifts.

Our Jesus is victorious. Easter is **the** great day of celebration. Easter brings the reality of what is still to come and makes it a part of our daily life, strengthening us to deal with a frenetic, crazy life, strengthening us to endure some rather hard and difficult experiences.

We know when Easter comes. Our Lord loves us and He sends Easter at the right time.

*Pastor*

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## April — Easter Triumphs

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*From April 2023 ORLC Archives  
By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

As April begins, Holy Week is behind us and Easter triumphs over sin and death. John 12 describes Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. He then notes the washing of feet by Jesus to illustrate servanthood.

This leads Jesus' arrest, mock trial, and crucifixion and death on cross. Joseph of Arimathea has the body placed in his tomb.

John relates the ladies' visit to the empty tomb and finally Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene.

Matthew records the Easter event from the time of Jesus' actual rising from the tomb and includes the actions of the guards.

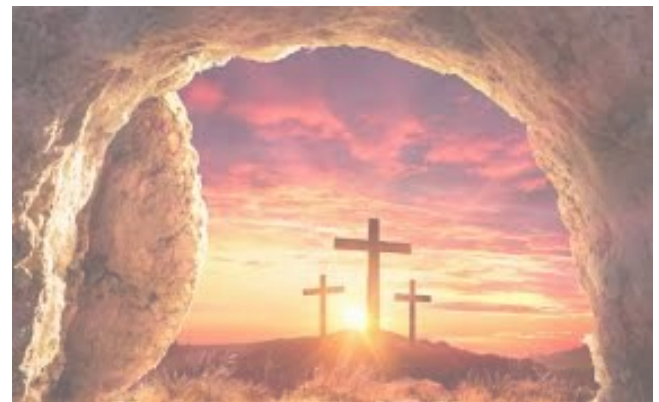
John also details the events of Easter from the disciples' vantage point including Jesus appearing and miraculous signs, followed by parables.

Luke's version includes the Emmaus event when Jesus showed them the Old Testament prophesy regarding these events.

The Old Testament records in Isaiah 50 includes the prediction of Jesus' torture during the crucifixion but included some earlier events. There are words to show how His sacrifice paid for our sins.

In Acts Peter delivers a sermon on the fact that Jesus' sacrifice was also intended for the Gentiles. In those days the disciples were told to stop preaching about Jesus and refused to obey that. The message goes on to describe the actions of the apostles in sharing the Gospel message.

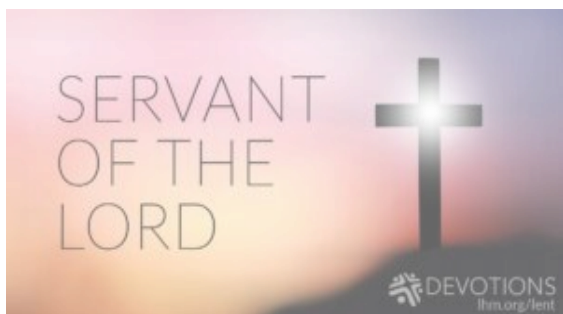
*The Word of God; the Holy Bible, is our most precious source of salvation knowledge, guidance, and comfort and should be used daily for its wisdom— Arlen*



# Turning the World Upside Down

By Dr. Kari Vo for Lutheran Hour Ministries April 19, 2025

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission ... Nicodemus also ... came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So ... they laid Jesus there. (John 19:38a, 39-41, 42b)



What a day this is! The Son of God is dead. How can that be? The Source of life, about to be laid in a tomb.

And by whom? Two respected members of the Jewish council, the very group that condemned Him! Pilate must have been amazed. And at Passover time, too, when handling a body guarantees they will not be able to participate in public worship for the rest of the week! But they don't care.

Normally caring for Jesus' body would have been a task for women. But Joseph and Nicodemus have taken this service on themselves, the last gift of love they can give Jesus. Who cares about gender roles?

Jesus whom they loved is dead, and their world has been turned upside down. Nothing else matters to them. At least, until their world gets turned right-side up, on Sunday morning;—when the women in turn take over the men's job and preach Good News to the disciples.

**WE PRAY:** Thank You, dear Lord, for turning my world right side up by Your death and resurrection. You have saved me and everyone who trusts in You. Amen.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- \* How does the death of someone you love turn your world upside down?
- \* At such a time, do you care if you're breaking social expectations?
- \* Were Jesus' followers expecting the resurrection? How do you know?

# Our Redeemer News & Notes

**PRAYER LIST**— Karin, Fred, Ramona, Nancy, Mark, Karen, Mary, Ginny, Faith, Brenda, Michael, Bill, Janet, Charlu, Jessie, Betty, Sarah, Sandy, Libby, Mike, and Louise.

**MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP HOUR**— All fellowship gatherings are held after service the 2nd Sunday of the month. We ask 2 to 3 people to bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. to share. See Lina



**EASTER HOPE**—Easter gives us hope and new life—made possible through Jesus Christ's resurrection. As we celebrate this joyful season, stewardship becomes a response of gratitude for God's incredible gift. Giving faithfully and generously to Our Redeemer Church

is our way of helping to spread the Gospel news that He is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!—Kathy, Stewardship Chair

**ELECTRONIC DONATION CHOICE** — Anyone can now use the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z62P/home> to donate directly to Our Redeemer. Online giving allows you to choose the category where you want your gift to go. You may make a one time offering, or you set up a recurring offering that begins or ends on a date you chose.

**OPPORTUNITIES**— If you have not already, please make sure you pick up a form in the Narthex and check where you may serve as a steward in 2026. You are free to add one of your own. Please check areas of interest for 2026. Give it to Kathy or leave on offering plate.

## News & Notes.... CONTINUED

**EASTER BREAKFAST** -Come rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday April 5 at 9:15 a.m. We will have a variety of casseroles and breakfast items available for you and your family to enjoy. If you would like to participate a sign-up sheet will be available for food and attendance in the Narthex posted on the bulletin board. We hope everyone will join us in fellowship to celebrate this blessed and joyous day with family and friends. God's blessings. If you have any questions please contact me. Lina Besteder, Congregational Life email [wbesteder@aol.com](mailto:wbesteder@aol.com). (302) 737-3234

**FELLOWSHIP** — Fellowship Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. Please join us after the service for coffee and to say hello. We are always looking for someone to bring the snacks. Let Lina know. You can also sign up to bring items. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. April fellowship will be on the 12th. —*Lina*



**BUILD-A-BAG PROJECT**—*May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us and establish the work of our hands for us. Psalm 90:17*

**THEN**—I found the article I wrote a year ago. Here is a quote from March 2025: *"This month when our supplies for the warm middle layers have dwindled, Ruth brought in an afghan that was too frayed to be shipped by OGT. We were able to stabilize it and work it into our next sleeping bag. To date 10 sleeping bags have been made and donated to Newark Empowerment Center since last September."*

**NOW**—Thanks be to God! This is an amazing 2025-26 sleeping bag season. We've been blessed with community support, support from other churches and organization and from our neighbors and friends. Bedding donations have been donated on a regular basis,

so we've had the materials needed to make sleeping bags. Our number of volunteers has doubled this year along with some friends that have dropped in to support us for the day. With God's favor and the skills He gave us, we have made 26 adult and 3 child size sleeping bags.

The adult bags were split evenly between Newark Empowerment Center and Hope on Deck. In early March when I delivered the first child size bag to Newark, a substitute manager from Wilmington Empowerment Center, asked if I had more. She had a client sleeping in her car with her children ages 1 and 3 years old. The next week 2 more child size bags with extra blankets were delivered to a Newark center counselor who was scheduled to work in Wilmington the next day. God has a plan and is guiding the work of our hands.

Even though it's been extraordinary season and it's not over yet. We will be taking an Easter break March 31 and April 7 but continue with our mission April 14. Please keep our project in mind when you start your spring-cleaning. Insulated or heavy drapes make strong waterproof outer layers. Comforters, blankets, quilts, mattress pads and fleece throws make warm lining layers. Sheets make a seamless interior layer. Large pieces of upholstery, home décor, fleece, quilt, and apparel fabric by the yard can also be used to make sleeping bags. And we always have room for new friends to help build a bag. Share our mission project with family, friends, and neighbors and plant a seed for God. He will make it grow.

We also continue to seek travel size toiletries, razors, wash cloths, sanitizer, small hand towels, hats, gloves, lotions, and scarves to tuck in bags for extra warmth. We have made over 18 bags so far this season. *Join us Tuesdays at 10 a.m. as we recycle used bedding into sleeping bags for the homeless in Newark.* —

*Marybeth*



**ORCHARD**—Join us in the garden on April 18 as we prepare the garden for summer. We are excited to welcome some new neighborhood gardeners this season. Come and help put up the new compost pallets, shore up the picnic table, and other related tasks. You can also meet and say hello to our neighborhood gardeners. It is still not too late to get your own plot for the season. Please contact Robin for more information on how you may help. —  
*Robin*

**SPRING FOOD DRIVE FOR LCS**—We will be collecting donations of canned and boxed foods for Lutheran Community Services during the month of April. Your generosity and that of others will make a difference to a family that may be struggling with food insecurity. Your kind act will touch lives with food and caring. —*Ruth*

**COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026**—*Council meetings* are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. (Apr. 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16). *Voters' Assembly (Congregational Meetings)* will be held on Sundays: May 31, September 27 and the Annual Meeting on November 15.

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**—The Little Free Library is a gift to those who continue to use it. We always appreciate the donation of children's, young adult, and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books. —*Julie*

**BIBLE STUDY**—Bring your coffee and join us each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** — All men, those in your household, and friends are invited to join us March 28th at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee.

**NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS**—News to be included in Sunday's bulletin is due Tues. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of the month.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** —Sunday School is held on the first and third Sundays. Please see Robin if you have questions.

**MYSTERY DONATION**—Someone has left a Boscov's bag of new (with tags) in the rainbow room. We just wanted to make sure that it was not in error before it is donated to Orphan Grain train or Hope on Deck. Please let Ruth know if you can solve the mystery. —*Ruth*



## Spotlight on Julie & Paul

- Paul and Julie, you have both been faithful members at Our Redeemer for many years. Both of you have used your time and talents to serve in church in different roles.
- Paul you can always be found working quietly around the church for clean up days. You support the ORCHARD garden as both a gardener and at events. Your peppers, over the past couple of years, have been impressive and appreciated.

In the past, you have quietly served as usher and continue to help to put hymn numbers up when needed.

- Julie, you not only show up at events, you have helped with the altar guild, chaired the mutual ministry committee, and oversee the Little Free Library.
- Your involvement continues with helping with dinners, social ministry, LWML, and cleanup events as well.
- Most importantly you share with Our Redeemer the gift of your talent sitting at the organ bringing beautiful music to the congregation for so many years.
- The two of you continue to quietly shine. You have done all of this and so much more out of your love for Jesus, for your church family, and for those in need. We have probably left something out, but we want to say, for this and everything else that you quietly do, we thank you.



*Each Month Our Redeemer's Voice will spotlight a different member of our congregation. Names are selected randomly. We have so many in our congregation who have let their light shine at Our Redeemer and beyond. We appreciate every one, everyday!*

**EASTER! What a joyous and sacred day of the church year. Without Christ's resurrection all else would be meaningless. Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15. "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, you are still in your sins... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead..."**





## Lutherans Around Us

**EASTER GREETINGS FROM LCM AT UD!** — We give joyful thanks to our generous God for a year of abundance at Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!

So far this academic year, we've welcomed 18 student visitors, and our dinner table has been full most weeks. (Please see the photo below.) Whether taking part in Tuesday dinners and worship time, attending Bible studies, volunteering with FISH, ice skating, hiking, or enjoying monthly "coffee and conversation" outings, the LCM students bring a wonderful spirit of joy, community, service, and growing faith. This month, we look forward to egg dyeing for Easter and a day-long retreat to Longwood Gardens!

We continue to look for new members for our Directing Committee (governing board.) We also invite volunteers to join us for the spring property work day on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 10 AM, attending to minor repairs and beautifying the LCM property. If you'd like to become more involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please contact me. Thank you!

If you're interested in visiting the LCM chapel, we love to spend time with congregational members and our LCM supporters. We're very grateful for dozens of tasty meals that have been prepared for students over the years. Perhaps you'd like to partner with a friend or two to bring a Tuesday dinner this spring. For more information, please call our office or refer to LCM's website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. And you're welcome to drop in to see us on Tuesday for a visit any time.



Thank you for your prayers for the students and volunteers of LCM. We especially welcome prayers for blessing and protection for Ilsa, a junior studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France; prayers for confidence and courage for Meghan, our one graduating senior; and prayers for guidance and deep peace for Vanessa, preparing for baptism this spring. Please also pray for all the new students who have connected with LCM, that they may discover a spiritual home among us and find LCM to be a joyful, welcoming, and Spirit-filled place to grow in service, outreach, discipleship, and faith in Jesus Christ! Thank you.

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; [chaplain@lcmde.org](mailto:chaplain@lcmde.org)*

## Water of Life: Look Into My Heart



**IN THE WORD** *As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man* (Proverbs 27:19)

**OF THE WORD** What beauty there is in sitting by a body of water — stream, lake, river, or ocean — and watching the sun set. The sky is filled with wonderful shades of reds, oranges, and yellows. The water reflects these brilliant colors, making what seems like a double sunset.

The author of Proverbs says that our hearts are just like water. Just as objects and light are reflected by water, the heart of man reflects his whole being. Looking into our own heart can be a scary thought. We are quickly made aware of our sins, faults, and evil actions when we compare what we carry in our heart to God's expectations of us.

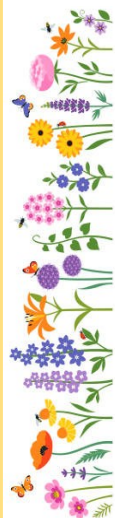
But the heart of a believer also shows the evidence of God's redeeming work of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. God promises us "... *I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you*" (Ezekiel 36:26a). Through the waters of Baptism and faith in Jesus Christ, God has taken away our stony heart filled with sin, faults, and evil actions. He gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.




**WALKING WITH MY LORD** Faithful God, through Baptism You have given me a new heart. Guide me so my heart and actions will always reflect Your love and goodness. In Your holy name. Amen.

*Mustard Seed: Water of Life. Michael Heckmann, author. 3/28 ©2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from The Holy*



# APRIL 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANISTS Julie USHERS Arlen, Denny	LECTORS 4/5 Paul 4/12 Bob 4/19 Emily 4/26 Kevin	1		Maundy Thursday Communion 7 p.m.	Good Friday WSP 7 p.m.	4
5 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS2 10 a.m. Sunday School . Julie 	6	7 Announcement Deadline NO BUILD A BAG CHECA 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS2 10 a.m. Digital Fellowship Sunday	13	14 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	15 Council 7 p.m. Zoom	16	17	18 Garaden Work Party 9 a.m.
19 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 2 Sunday School . 	20	21 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m. Newsletter Deadline CHECA 7 pm	22	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
26 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS2 10 a.m. Worship—Digital	27	28 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	29	30	MAY 1	2
3 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS2 10 a.m. Sunday School Julie 	4	5	6 Garden Social 6 p.m.	7	8	9

# 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



***Read a little  
each day and  
you will get  
through the  
entire Bible in  
one year***

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

Luke 23-24

