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Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Tidings
April / May 2024

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Jesus Is Alive- No April Fools Here

By Pastor Foote

“Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” This cry is known and exclaimed throughout the world on Easter Sunday. Although there may be divisions between Christians – if you are Christian – your core belief is Jesus is risen! Every Christian believes this, otherwise, as St. Paul says, “... if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless and you are still in your sins.” (I Corinthians 15:17)



This year Easter almost falls on April Fools' Day. Although the specific origins of April Fools' Day are unknown there are many reasons to believe that it has something to do with Easter and the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. The switch occurred after the beginning of the Reformation with Luther's protest in Wittenberg. The switch did not occur because of any sort of backlash against Luther, but rather a concern by the Pope that the Julian calendar was not accurate enough over the years and centuries and millennia. By 1582 because of an 11 minute annual error in the Julian calendar (established in 46 BC), after over 1600 years the date of spring and Easter was off by over 12 days. Pope Gregory the XIII was concerned that Easter was getting further and further away from the spring equinox (March 21), and would lose some of its veracity and significance.

The Gregorian calendar was more precise. But, since the remnants of the Roman Catholic was no longer entirely Catholic due to the Reformation, many parts of Europe refuse to accept the Gregorian calendar since accepting the change would imply allegiance with the Roman Papacy. Protestants in Germany held out for over 100 years before accepting the new calendar, in England it was even longer.

In some places, like France people who refused to observe the new year on January 1 (the Gregorian calendar) instead of April 1 (the Julian calendar), were called “April fools.”

Agreeing on a particular uniform calendar is certainly helpful, and almost a necessity; but agreeing upon the historicity of the resurrection is vital!

When we look at the four Gospels, and specifically focus upon the events of the resurrection of Jesus, it looks quite chaotic! And of course it was. Various appearances of angels to various people at different times, while others – like Peter and John – never saw angels but saw the empty grave, leads to a confused picture of Easter. This is indeed typically the way events are “witnessed” by various eyewitnesses of an event. They each have their own perspective, although the event did in fact happen. What we have with a record of Easter in the four Gospels is not a foolish attempt to synthesize divergent opinions – but just the opposite! Allow those observers to report what they witnessed and recalled as they remembered experiencing it. The differences in the four Gospels actually are a validation of their authenticity rather than an indictment of collusion!

No one tried to doctor any record. They allowed the differences to stand, and in fact those differences can be harmonized, and in a rather beautiful and satisfying way.

It would be foolish to believe that Jesus had not risen from the dead.

What history and archaeology are revealing today is what Dr. Paul Maier the great church historian has always said, “The further we get away from the events, the closer we get to an accurate view of what really happened.” (I am paraphrasing him here.)

From the beginning of the Biblical account, we have events that indicate they happened in the way that they were reported:

- Because Jesus died so quickly from His horrific beating, Pilate and the guards were surprised at the speed of death – so to bluntly dissuade anyone who believed Jesus had not died, the soldier thrust his spear into Jesus' side, (Roman death squads were experts, and if they failed the at task they would suffer the same fate that they were to impose upon the crucified - failure to kill meant they would die – that is the hard edged accountability of the Roman Empire in the first century).

- Because of the animus and unbelief of the Jewish rulers, they would assure that no followers of Christ would plunder the tomb in the dark of the night – by placing guards and a seal on the tomb. When the Angels brought paralyzing fear to those same guards, who would later report precisely what happened, the fact that they lived – implied that a pay-off had been made, along with a powerful persuasive case brought by the Jewish rulers not to eliminate the guards. The death of other guards who failed to keep Peter in prison (Acts 12), serve to validate the Easter bribe.
- The Gospel account of the two courageous Jewish leaders who did believe – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – is inspiring on its own, but also has been corroborated by very recent revelations at the tomb of Christ, in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The grave of Jesus had been revered by early disciples. That place of reverence became the target of Rome's effort to expunge the Christians from the holy land and building a temple to Jupiter over the holy site of the grave of Christ in the second century by the Emperor Hadrian. Two centuries later Roman Emperor Constantine only had to look beneath the Roman temple, which had not only marked the site but protected it from further invasion. Sometimes enemies of Christ turn out to be our best friends. Excavation three years ago, has also revealed a solid rock cave wall underneath layers of marble and plaster. Just as the Gospels described.
- Earlier adamant unbelievers such as Saul – who would become St. Paul, and Jesus' brothers James and Jude (early detractors of Jesus in the Gospels of Mark and John), would be converted by their resurrected Half-Brother, and become the authors of two important really epistles in the New Testament, and James became the leader of the Jerusalem Church (see Acts 15 & I Cor. 15)

More than all the logic, archaeology, geography, and history, that seems to corroborate the resurrection of Christ, it is the accountant words of Christ which are our greatest foundation of faith. Indeed, the first time we see a reference to "foolishness" in the Gospels, it is Jesus chastising those who have chosen to build their lives on the sand, rather on the Solid Rock of His Word. (Matthew 7:26) Later Jesus would use the same word "foolish" to describe two of His Own followers, with eyes blinded to the risen Lord walking with them, but hearts burning with the truth of the words of the Man talking to them. They were fools not to believe what the prophets had written long ago. "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Prayer and Pie

Our dedicated prayer warriors continue to meet the first Thursday of most months to share their praises and concerns, then take them to the Lord in prayer. You are invited to join in regularly, or whenever you are free that morning.



We meet at 9:00, then enjoy coffee and pie and fellowship.

We will gather together on **May 2**. If you cannot attend but have prayer petitions you would like to submit, tell Pastor Foote or Hannah in the church office and we will include your prayer requests. If praying for someone else's concern, be sure to get their permission to share with the group.

Mark Your Calendar for a Favorite Annual Event!



The Women's Candlelight Dinner will be Sunday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m. The topic this year will be "The Power of Prayer," presented by Bev Wischer. Bev, the wife of our recently retired District President and someone who is sought after as a retreat leader, will encourage us to feel our Lord's gentle care surrounding, supporting, strengthening, and sustaining us.

Bring a dish-to-pass, and invite your friends to join you here for a wonderful evening of fellowship and music! To be sure we have enough table settings, please sign up on the poster in the narthex if you plan to attend.



Community news



Red Cross Blood Drive at Trinity, there is an urgent need for blood. To reserve a time to donate visit: RedCrossBlood.org.

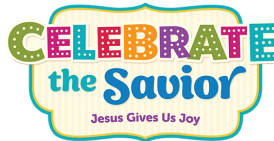
On the left side fill in your zip code and select "Find A Drive" then scroll down to our listing. The blood drive at Trinity will be Saturday, **April 27** from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School

VBS is the first 3 days in July, **July 1-3** at Trinity Lutheran Church. We typically have VBS the week after public schools are out for the summer, but with the Independence Day holiday in the middle of the week, we have decided to shorten it to a 3-day VBS.

This year's theme is "Celebrate the Savior!"

Lisa Thompson and Mary Milbrath are co-directors this year. If you are willing to volunteer to help either with preparation before that week or during the 3 days the children will be here, let Mary or Lisa know. It is a fun event for all!



Ascension Service, May 9

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

The worship service will include Holy Communion. We encourage all of you to come and celebrate Christ the King.



Lutherans at the NY State Fair

Planning ahead: The Lutheran booth is returning to the New York State Fair! It will again be located in the air-conditioned pavilion. Trinity will be responsible for staffing it on Friday, **August 30**, from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Your admission that day will be free, and you are able to enjoy the Fair before or after your shift. At the booth you would simply hand out Christian literature, toys and trinkets that are provided by Lutheran Laymen's League. A sign-up sheet will be available as the time draws near, but save the date!



Trinity Online

Did you know that from our website: www.trinityithaca.org, you can read the Trinity Tidings (with photos in color), watch our Sunday morning and other worship services live-streamed, and watch the previous sermons you may have missed?!



List of Upcoming Events

<u>Every Sunday</u>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & Bible class in-person or via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, in person or via LiveStream (Communion is celebrated the 1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Sundays of the month)
April 4, Thursday	-----	No Pie and Prayer this week
April 7, Sunday	5:30 p.m.	Women's Candlelight Dinner.
April 10, Wednesday	12:00 noon.	Bible Study
April 14, Sunday	7:00 p.m.	Council
April 27, Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Red Cross blood drive at Trinity
May 2 Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Prayer & Pie
May 8, Wednesday	12:00 noon	Bible study
May 9, Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Ascension Service
May 19, Sunday	7:00 p.m.	Council
May 27, Monday	-----	Memorial Day holiday



Note: Beginning June 2nd we will convert to our summer schedule:
No Sunday school or Sunday morning Bible study
9:15 a.m. Worship Service

Trinity Gallery

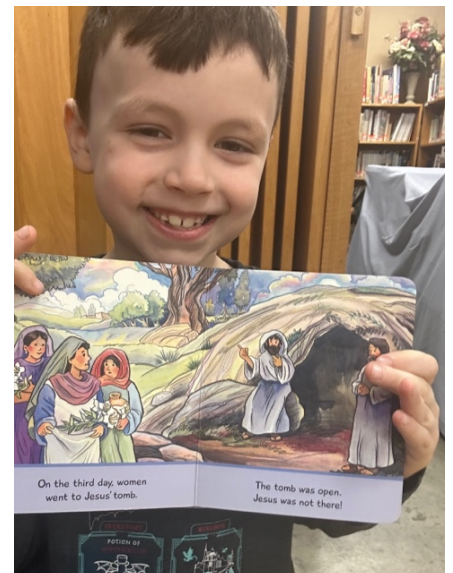
After School brothers making bird feeders.



Lenten dinner with Trinity and After School families.



Thank you Vivian for your beautiful visual art for the Lent service.



"I get it, Jesus died for ME.
Like our Bible verse says,
' This is how we know what love is
Jesus Christ laid down His life for us '
BEST STORY EVER !!"

Worship Assistants

** Communion Altar Care for April: Darcy Bedore
 ▼ Altar Care for May: Janet Krizek

Date	Elder	Ushers	Lay Deacons
April 7**	Tait Halverson	Jean Pawlak & Nancy Gifft	Marcia Zeller & Mary Brodie
April 14	Dick Burlew	Tait & Stephanie Halverson	Rick & Sherri Bryant
April 21 **	Lindsey Milbrath	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie	Karla N. & Mary Brodie
April 28	Tait Halverson	Jim & Darcy Bedore	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie
May 5**	Lindsey Milbrath	Chester Pollock & Ellen van Wijngaarden	Pat Hollingsworth & Janet Krizek
May 9** Ascension Day	TBA	TBA	Pat Hollingsworth & Janet Krizek
May 12	Dick Burlew	Jean Pawlak & Nancy Gifft	Myrth Guest & Susan Schattschneider
May 19**	Tait Halverson	Linda Osborne & Mary Brodie	Linda Terry & Mary Brodie
May 26	Lindsey Milbrath	Jim & Darcy Bedore	Marcia Zeller & Mary Brodie

Kitchen Cupboard Volunteers: April 17: Myrth Guest and Sue Schattschneider
 May 15: Myrth Guest and Janet Krizek

Attendance



	Worship	Communion
Sunday, February 4, 10:30 am	67	63
Sunday, February 11, 10:30 am	63	
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 pm	45	41
Sunday, February 18, 10:30 am	63	57
Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 pm	51	
Sunday, February 25, 10:30 am	65	55
Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 pm	~40	
Sunday, March 3, 10:30 am	65	55
Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 pm	38	
Sunday, March 10, 10:30 am	71	59
Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 pm	40	
Sunday, March 17, 10:30 am	65	58
Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 pm		
Sunday, March 24, 10:30 am	64	
Maundy Thurs, March 28, 7:00 pm	37	36
Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 pm	48	
Easter Sunrise, March 31, 7:00 am	17	
Easter Day, March 31, 10:30 am	87	61



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Preschool & After School
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Change Service Requested

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread, to prayer... and loving service. Acts 2:42, 45*



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On-line streaming of our services at Trinity will be available on our website:
www.trinityithaca.org~ "LiveStream worship" button



Isaiah 61:11

"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,
So the Sovereign Lord will make Righteousness and praise Spring up before all nations."