



RISEN SAVIOR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2018

RISEN SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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"CHANGING LIVES BY PROCLAIMING OUR RISEN SAVIOR"

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A WORD FROM PASTOR GARY

"In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time..."

Ash Wednesday comes a little early this year—February 14, in fact. As spring follows winter, Lent (a word in ancient times simply meaning "spring," and related to the German word lenz) follows Epiphany. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with celebration our Lord's resurrection on Easter.

Some people don't care for Lenten hymns, probably because both the words and the and keys express our struggle with grief and sin. One imagines in Luther's day, and for centuries

earlier, the early weeks of Lent coincided with greatly depleted food reserves. It would make sense, then, for Lent to be a season of fasting—there may have been little choice.

Hymn 427 in the Lutheran Service Book is *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*, and it's one I connect with, especially the second phrase of the first line, *tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time*. The cross represents many things, its focus shifting as we move through the season. On Good Friday we see in the Cross the completion of our Savior's Passion, the sacrifice he made for us that cost Jesus everything. Earlier in the Lenten season, we think about the sign of ashes (often applied in the shape of a cross) symbolizing our mortality and poverty. We, correctly, hear our Lord saying to us, "Pick up your cross and follow me."

But what moves me about this hymn and this phrase in particular is how it describes the persistent troubles and corruption of our world as "the wrecks of time." For me, that makes an impact. I think about God's good creation and how mankind has spoiled it,

turning into something like a train wreck. And with each passing age, even when humans fix some of the problems, usually our solutions create other problems, sometimes worse than the first. If it all wasn't such a tragedy, if people weren't getting hurt and ruined, it would be a comedy of errors.

But then the Cross of Jesus Christ rises above it all. It doesn't erase our sin and selfishness, it rather gives redemptive purpose to the tragedy and reframes an otherwise lame story with a sacred and enlightened meaning: "All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime." Because of what took place on that cross, history's meaning has changed.

The last verse says, "Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified." Therein is the redemptive power of Lent; good and bad, bane and blessing, victory and defeat all remain, but they mean something different in light of the cross. Peace be to all of you.

Sunday School/Bible Class

8:30 AM

Worship Service

9:30 AM

Fellowship Following Service

To place a prayer request on the prayer chain, or to be added to the chain, contact Marguerite Medina at : peggiedee2@gmail.com

Prayer for those with specific concerns is available after service. Please come forward to let us pray with you.

IMPORTANT MEETING

There will be a Voter's Assembly Meeting to discuss the refinancing of our LCEF loan on February 11 after the Worship Service.

OUTREACH

February is here, Lent will start shortly and we have a lot of things to do this year. Blessing Buckets will continue to distribute here and this year we hope to expand to a second location as well. Also, we want to continue to support SUDS for Love not just with laundry goodies, but in other ways with the help of Millie and the ladies of the post.

Having game night, Chili cook off and a few other fun things for all is also in the near future. Let's get out and have some fun with your Church family. If there are events you would like to do, let Outreach know. Come to our meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 11 am and see what we do and give us some ideas. Would love to have you join us.

NEWS AND NOSEY NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES

The trustees never seem to have anything exciting to report and December was pretty much the same. The "to do" list never seems to get any shorter even though there are always some things that get crossed of the list.

One of the most wonderful things that happened / got done last month was the purchase of an organ to replace the old one that was donated many years ago. Many thanks to those that helped to bring the "new" one from what seemed like the end of the earth, Spring Hill. Thanks to Matt for finding it, Troy for the use of his trailer to transport it, Gerhard for the use of his SUV to tow the trailer and transporting Norman, Marguerite, Troy and me to haul it back to the church. What an instrument it is!!!! Next question, does anyone want or know of anyone that would like to tinker and own the old organ? Troy and Gerhard might even donate their trailer/car to deliver it!

The ever problem to program the thermostat in the Narthex was replaced before Christmas. Simple and easy to use/set. Even Bob can set it! Other things have been done, but won't be mentioned here. Those 2 Michigan sno-birds have come back and they sure were/are a welcome sight. Call them the silent wonder workers. Members of RSLC should take notice and help like they do. After all, RSLC is all of our church home.

There is a work Saturday planned for February 17. These work parties are planned so that some of the many things that need doing can get done in one day. We all know the saying "more help makes everything easier for everyone."

Bob and Ed are available during the week if someone has some time to work on small projects
Submitted by Bob Schmidt for trustees Bob Schmidt and Ed Bauman.

GOD'S PANTRY

Since inception, the pantry has distributed 1,871,030 meals. In 2017 542,220 meals were distributed serving an average of 1043 clients per week with a record of 1255 on 5/31/17. These numbers are actually low since we guesstimate that clients will receive an average of 10 meals per week. Given the weight of food that we receive, I believe it is much more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 12 – drive thru parking lot event – Thrivent day

April 8 – pantry anniversary lunch after the Service

April 9 – drive thru parking lot event