

APRIL 2022



St. John Lutheran
P.O. Box 32
West Alexandria, OH 45381
937-839-5321
Email: stjohningoar@swohio.twcbc.com
www.stjohningomar.org

Sunday
Worship Service
9:00 am



Church Office Hours
Mondays and Fridays
10:00 AM-3:00 PM

HOLY WEEK/EASTER

St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ

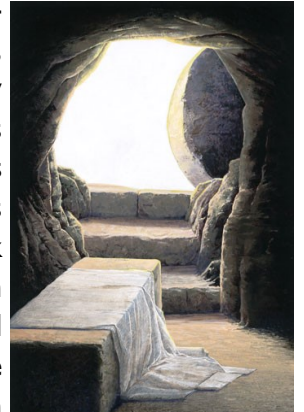
A PASTORAL LETTER

Pastor Tim Swanson

Empty Tombs and Risen Appearances

There appear to be two separate traditions about the resurrection of Jesus. These two were combined when the Gospels were put into written form. They include:

The empty tomb stories that circulated. They are centered around the women who followed Jesus. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all include Mary Magdalene. Matthew adds the other Mary, while Mark and Luke identify her as the mother of James; Mark adds Salome while Luke adds other women. Mark and Luke add that they carried spices to anoint the body of Jesus. In all, the stone was rolled back when they arrived, Mark saying when the sun had risen while John says it was still dark. An angel or men appeared in dazzling white robes or garments. In all accounts, **the women are seen as those who seek Jesus**. It is only in the Gospel of John that Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and is mistaken by her as a gardener. In the other Gospels, the angel tells them that he is risen. They go and tell the other disciples what they had seen.



The Risen Lord appearances seem to **center around the apostles**. Mark is the oldest account of the four Gospels. The short version of Mark ends without any appearances of Jesus. The longer version adds his appearance first to Mary Magdalene, then two in the country, and then to the eleven as they sat at the table



upbraiding them for their lack of faith and then sent them to proclaim good news everywhere. He then ascends to heaven. In Matthew, he appears to the disciples on a mountain in Galilee. There, he issues the great commission to go and baptize all nations and to teach them to obey all that he commanded them. In Luke, Jesus appears first to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who invite him to stay and eat with them. He then appears to the eleven back in Jerusalem. In both cases, Jesus opens their minds to scripture and eats with them. Its significance is in the gathering of believers around the word and supper. He then ascends

into heaven. Luke continues this story within his book of Acts where the church carries out the mission beginning in Jerusalem spanning out throughout the world. In the Gospel of John, Jesus appears to the ten disciples, at first, in the room in Jerusalem and a second time with all eleven including Thomas. He breathes on them the Holy Spirit which brings to mind the breath of life in the second creation account in Genesis 2. Jesus, as resurrected Lord, Also appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus whereby he encountered his conversion experience. Paul regarded himself as the least of all the apostles.

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Empty Tombs and Risen Appearances

Easter Sunday usually lifts up the **empty tomb** portion of the story. It is the **following Sunday**, however, that lifts up the **appearance stories** of Easter. Both Sundays should be a unit. It is not just the experience of an empty tomb and the overcoming of death but it is also about the resurrected Lord who stands amid the congregation and breathes new life within the baptized. Both show his being the Lord of creation (empty tomb) and Lord of the church (appearances to his disciples) which is the new creation; the new humanity restored in God.



COLLECTING ALL UNDERWEAR FOR APRIL SHOWERS!!!

The Common Good of Preble County is taking donations this year for men, women, boys, and girls. **ALL SIZES (new)**. Place your donations in the laundry basket labeled just for these undies. Thanks!

WELCA March Meeting Minutes

The March meeting of St. John Women of the ELCA was held in the parish hall on March 10 with 8 members present. The meeting was called to order by President Earla Donaldson. Kathy presented the topic on "Seasons of Life." The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,058.99. Stephanie reported it is no longer mandatory that we continue paying monthly WELCA dues.

Kathy reported 22 cards were sent.

Common Good in Eaton is again sponsoring April Showers to be held on April 19. The only thing needed is underwear of all sizes. The group noted to support this project with a \$50 donation.

No details were available on Dayton Conference.

We will once again prepare and serve the Easter breakfast. Chris volunteered to help with this event.

Sketchy detail were available for Family Night to be held on May 6. Chris volunteered to help with this event.

We will be serving the Retired Teachers luncheon on April 12.

The group will be dining at the Florentine in Germantown on April 21 at 6:00 pm.

Homeless meal this month will be provided by Stephanie and Carolyn.

Meeting closed with the Missionary Benediction.

Refreshments were served by Chris and Earla.

All women of St. John are invited and welcome to attend meetings the second Thursday of each month.

Women of the ELCA seeks to be an instrument of Christian Mission in helping the Church to declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ through:

- Learning of Christ and the mission of His church
- Witnessing in our daily lives to our Christian faith
- Serving the needs of others in the congregation and Community
- Supporting the total work of the church through prayers and offerings

COUNCIL MINUTES From MARCH 16, 2022

Present: Randy Ingram, president (2023), Melissa Collins, vice president (2022), Scott Hittle (2023), Janette Hittle (2024), Fred Boebel (2024), Stephanie Cotterman (treasurer 2023), Mandy Arnett (2023) Interim pastor, Tim Swanson, and Secretary, Chris Ingram.

Devotion

Pastor Tim read from Romans 12:1,2 and Philippians 2 for scriptural meaning and applied it to our service as council members.

Minutes from council's last meeting (January 13, 2022) were emailed by secretary one week prior to this meeting for their perusal. Minutes accepted by council members.

A short meeting in mid-February (2/13/22) after worship took place to approve renewing Pastor Tim's contract and to name council VP. Pastor Tim agreed to accept the offer to renew the contract for 6 more months.

Melissa Collins accepted the council's vice president seat.

Council President, Randy Ingram asked council members for thoughts on going back to serving holy communion in the fashion before Covid and also taking up the offering using ushers. No one objected. This will begin Sunday, March 27.

Secretary's report/correspondence was also emailed one week prior to this meeting. Randy commented on being pleased to have Mut back amongst us and his willingness to help with property. Report was accepted.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

COMMITTEES

Sleep Mat Project: Still meeting third Saturday of the month. Was communicated to me by Carolyn Studebaker that they are not collecting brown and gray bags for the time being due to having plenty to work with.

Donations of blue and green are welcome.

WELCA: Met for monthly meeting March 10. Treasurer reported balance of \$1,058.99. Upcoming events in the works: Easter breakfast, Family Night (May 6), Retired Teachers luncheon (Apr.12) and eating out at Florentine restaurant (Apr. 21)

Property: Mut and Scott will be maintaining the prayer/memory garden.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Council Educational aspects. All present assessed seven "faith practices" for themselves and St. John (pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve, give).

Creation of Vision Team

Creation of Witness Team

Confirmation Ministry

Continuing Adult Bible Study

Mid-week Lenten series; introduction of Faith Healing; goal to have faith healing once a month on Sundays.

Complete Parochial Membership Listing for accuracy.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

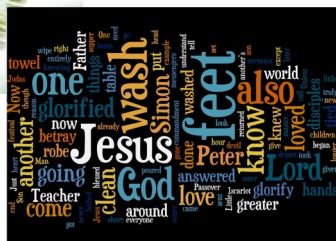
EASTER BREAKFAST FOLLOWING SUNRISE SERVICE

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE A HOT BREAKFAST OF HAM,

SCRAMBLED EGGS, ASSORTED COFFEE CAKES, COFFEE, JUICE, MILK,

CEREAL, AND PLENTY OF FELLOWSHIP.

(SET-UP ON SATURDAY MORNING AT 10:00 AM)



MISSIONARIES

Jon & Michelle Voge and family
Abby Utsinger

THOSE GRIEVING

The family of Cleo Eby



Thanks to all who continue
to send their offering to St.
John. We give because
God gave first.



Dear St. John Family,
Joe and I thank you for your prayers
and cards. Please continue to keep me
in your prayers as I am having hip
replacement surgery on April 4!
Lori & Joe Nelson

MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS

	Janet Ferguson	Reenie Halsey
Lori Nelson	Butch Spitler	Mark McKinley
Catherine Dafler	Marna Beneke	Melissa Collins
Patrick Collins	Helen Comer	

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS

Ann Cooper	Marilyn Ward
Howard Collins	Carol Gilbert
Natalie and Baby Boy	Lilly Moore
Joan McCaffrey	Lisa Altic
Rich Hapner	Robert Kincses
Andrew Obst	Carolyn Ulrich
Ellen Hickey & Family	Ryan Welty
Mark Blosser	Maxine Ingram
Beverly Crowell	Andy Eck
Jim Ferguson	Larry & Beverly Spitler
Jack Green	Colleen Mitchell
Vicky Hendricks	John Matteucci
Rita Scarborough	Stacy Cline
Paul Samson	Melinda Studebaker
Troy & Carol Lunsford	Eric Walker
Neil Wick	

Mark your calendars:

- April 3 return to 9:00 am worship time.
- April 17 Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 am with breakfast following.
- May 6 the women of the church are organizing "Family Night". This will be a good old fashioned carry-in. More details to come.



FINANCIAL		REPORT	JANUARY	2022	
		ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, INGOMAR			
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND					
BALANCE ON HAND 1.1.22			11387.14		
RECEIPTS			8857.90		
TOTAL IN CURRENT FUND			20245.04		
CURRENT EXPENSES					
TWIN VALLEY BANK			380.00		
G.E. CAPITAL-COPIER			73.00		
DPL		11/15-12/14	193.79		
KNOX ENERGY		11/8-12/16	562.71	12 MO CD-12/21-\$11,376.35	
TIME WARNER-PHONE/INTERNET			170.80		
SERV KEEPER/MY COMPUTER			219.89		
RUMPKE			65.24	AMERIPRISE-\$324,203	
CATECHISM			78.78	1.31.22	-9592
SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX			42.90		
CHRIS INGRAM P WORKER			1008.00	CURRENT OFFERING	
BROOKVILLE FLOWER SHOP			105.00	Jan 21-11,708.24	
TIM SWANSON/SUPPLY			3055.00	Jan 22-8857.90	
ORGANIST/MUSICIAN			240.00		
LOUDY OFFICE MACHINES			360.00		
JAMES GLENN-SNOW REMOVAL			200.00		
TRANSFER TO ACCRUED			2445.00	CASH FLOW	
PROPERTY MAINT			182.59	RECEIPTS- 8857.90	
				EXPENSES-9382.70	
					-524.80
TOTAL EXPENSES			9382.7		
BALANCE IN CURRENT FUND			10862.34		
BENEVOLENCE		MEMORIAL	DISCRETIONAR	W/HUNGER	STEPHEN MIN
BEG. BAL	0	10216	151.55	0	1527.03
RECEIPTS	2700	1295	0	125	0
PAID OUT	2700	0	0	125	0
END. BAL	0	11511	151.55	0	1527.03
Disaster-710					
S.SCHOOL		YOUTH	ACCRUED	MISSIONARY	ORGAN
BEG BAL	73.49	1964.87	46302.70	449	16370.33
RECEIPTS	0	0	2445.00	25	160.00
PAID OUT	0	0	0	200	0
END. BAL	73.49	1964.87	48747.7	274	16530.33
BENEVOLENCE PLEDGE		16933	G/WORKS PLEDGE		800
PAID OUT		1990			0
UNPAID PLEDGE		14943			800

FINANCIAL		REPORT	FEBRUARY	2022	
		ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, INGOMAR			
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND					
BALANCE ON HAND 2.1.2022			10862.34		
RECEIPTS		FEBRUARY	7420.60		
TOTAL IN CURRENT FUND			18282.94		
CURRENT EXPENSES					
TWIN VALLEY BANK			300.00		
G.E. CAPITAL-COPIER			73.00		
DPL		12/14-1/17	215.73		
KNOX ENERGY		12/16-1/17	619.08	12 MO CD-12/18-\$11,134.70	
TIME WARNER-PHONE/INTERNET			170.80		
RUMPKE			65.82		
SK/WIX/MY COMP			266.10		
BROOKVILLE FLOWER SHOP			120.00	AMERIPRISE-\$318,908	
BRENDA K WHITE. PREBLE CTY		TREAS.	203.28	2.28.22	-5295
CHRIS INGRAM-P.WORKER			955.50	CURRENT OFFERING	
TIM SWANSON-INTERIM			3500.00	Feb 21-\$7186.31	
ORGANIST/MUSICIAN			240.00	Feb 22-7420.60	
JAMES GLENN-SNOW REMOVAL			100.00		
1517 MEDIA-WORSHIP			190.87	Jan-Feb-21-18,894.55	
TRANSFER ACCRUED			2000.00	Jan-Feb 22— 16,278.50	
ENVELOPES			25.27		
				CASH FLOW	
				RECEIPTS— 7420.60	
				EXPENSES— 9045.45	
				-1623.85	
TOTAL EXPENSES			9045.45		
BALANCE IN CURRENT FUND			9237.49		
BENEVOLENCE		MEMORIAL	DISCRETIONAR	W/HUNGER	STEPHEN MIN
BEG. BAL	0	11511	151.55	0	1527.03
RECEIPTS*	1580	685	0	200	50
PAID OUT	1580	0	0	200	0
END. BAL	0	12196	151.55	0	1577.03
	incl Disaster-120				
	S.SCHOOL	YOUTH	ACCRUED	MISSIONARY	ORGAN
BEG BAL	73.49	1964.87	48747.70	274	16530.33
RECEIPTS	0	0	2000.00	255	80
PAID OUT	0	0	0	200	0
END. BAL	73.49	1964.87	50747.7	329	16610.33
BENEVOLENCE PLEDGE		14943	G/WORKS PLEDGE		800
PAID OUT		1260			200
UNPAID PLEDGE		13683			600

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AG-Becky S. CA-Chris I.	Ushers Bill D. Steve D. Dave W. Fred B.					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
M-Mandy A. LR-Buzz W.			Midweek Lenten Service 7:00PM			
Back to 9:00AM Worship Lent 5						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
M-Carol M. LR-Mark M A-Lucas & Olivia E.			Maundy Thursday 7:00PM M-Jenny D. LR-Carolyn S.	Good Friday 7:00PM M-Mandy A.	Set-up for Easter Breakfast 10:00AM	
Palm Sunday						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
M-Carol M. LR-Mark M. A-Ellie A.			WELCA Dining at Florentine Germantown 6:00 PM			
Easter Sunrise Service 7:00AM						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
M-Jenny D. LR-Stephanie C. A-Lucas & Olivia E. Lay Minister-Julius Fingerle Easter 2			Homeless Meal Nancy & June			

By Ron Rose (02/01/2022) | Special Features

So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you (2 Corinthians 4:12).

MO is at Black Rifle Coffee, Beyond Black is in the cup, silence is on the playlist, and God is in the room showing us how.

Nowadays, people tend to dress down for funerals; it was different last century. Back then, you wore not only your best suit and tie, preferably it would be black, and you dressed up.

And, when I was a kid, my whole family went to funerals, except for my brother and sister; they were too little (3 and 4), so they stayed with Grandma. Now, in the name of innocence or because of adult discomfort, we sanitize the whole death experience. An entire generation of children has grown up, never coming face to face with death, never going to funerals, and never talking about the sanctity of life.

"Do you remember the first time you were in the same room with a dead body?" I asked Bill.

"I never have, ever. That would creep me out," Bill responded.

"Let me tell you about a visitation I worked. It was well attended. Lots of family and friends were telling stories, shedding tears, enjoying outbursts of laughter — and plenty of silence. Sometimes people don't know what to do at a visitation, so they just sit in silence. This group knew exactly what they wanted."

"After a short time, one of the visitors left, but she told me she would be back in a bit.

"About twenty minutes later, in she walked, this time with her son accompanying her. He appeared to be around 8 or 9. I welcomed him at the door, 'Hi there, young man.'" "Hi," he replied through his mask.

"As they walked toward our visitation room, she pointed out the memorial book. He stopped, stretched up to reach the high table, and printed his first and last name at the end of the list of names. She bent down again and whispered, and they continued into the room."

"I watched the boy walk up the husband of the deceased and give him a fist bump. They talked a bit, and then the boy and his mom walked over to the casket."

"He just stared for a moment, then reached up, kissed the forehead, and touched the hand of the women in the casket." He touched her? Ewwww! Bill was in a tizzy, "He touched her? Ewwww!"

I continued describing the situation: "After a short time there, the boy and his mom walked in my direction. As they passed, I said, 'thank you for coming, little man.' He smiled.

"And, I whispered to his mom, 'Thank you for bringing him. You are teaching the sanctity of life tonight. Thank you!'"

"I could sense her smile even through the mask."

"That, is what I get to see, Bill, multi-generations learning about life and death, grief and loss. Every day is a lesson about life in the middle of death."

Isn't that what we all need right now — finding life in the middle of death?

Oh, Abba, we need that now!

