



# REFLECTIONS

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church  
PO Box 440

Vol. 49 No. 4

April 2026



*But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."-  
Matthew 28: 5-6*

Jesus may have told his followers this would happen, but apparently up until the moment they encounter the words of the angel, they really didn't believe it. But once they did everything changed and the rest, as they say is history. The proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus is the power that proclaims good news to all. Think about a group of followers discouraged and feeling defeated watching Jesus' crucifixion and death now boldly proclaim Jesus is Lord, risen from the dead. Because of their faith in that proclamation, they went from just a small group of people to the billions of people who proclaim Jesus is Lord today!

Our situations can also make us feel defeated, and the world we live in is fraught with problems and dangers, not to mention the personal challenges we face. But as we celebrate Easter this month, let us also embrace anew the proclamation of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ so that we don't feel stuck or defeated ready to put one foot in front of the other and go forward trusting that God has far more for us than we ask or think ! **THE LORD IS RISEN..HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!!**

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor John

#### **Pastors Contact Info.**

#### **Pastor John VanHaneghan Contact Information**

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*Our Sympathy to the families and friends of Vivian Dinius, Galen Rustan. May Jesus' triumph over death and the grave help sustain these families in their time of sorrow.*



**If you would like to bring an Easter Lily to help decorate the cross, please have it here by April 2nd. Those wishing to dedicate their lily in**

**honor of a loved one are asked to let Laurie know by April 2nd as well.**



**Asking anyone who is on Altar guild to help with stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thurs.**

# Special Dates this Month

*Holy Week Continues, March 29-April 5, 2026*

*Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026*

*Good Friday, April 3, 2026*

*Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026*

*Earth Day, April 22, 2026*

*Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2026*



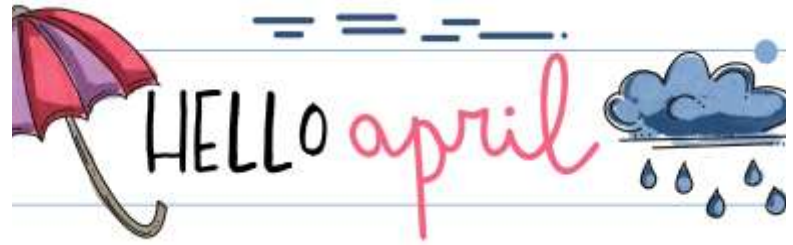
## *The Joy of the Resurrection*

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world.

The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



April 1st	<b>Jerald &amp; Sandy Rafferty (A)</b>
April 3rd	Erin Hanson
April 4th	Kory Doe Boone Awander
April 5th	Zoe Jung
April 6th	<b>Kirk &amp; Paulette Erickson (A)</b>
April 9th	Trisha Erickson
April 10th	Richard Lutz
April 11th	John S. Plaggemeyer
April 13th	Paulette Erickson Alexis Wolfe RyLynn Stecher
April 15th	Ariann Doe
April 17th	Lewellyn Rustan
April 20th	Kyle Johnson
April 21st	Wade Bock
April 24th	Willis Johnson Jodi Olsonawski
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha Fitterer
April 27th	Gerri Frank Nathan Thomas
April 29th	Kristin Neprash Miranda Wolfe
April 30th	Judy Dill

## WORSHIP HELPERS

### USHERS:

April	5th	Shyann & RyLynn
April	12th	Cade & Shyann
April	19th	
April	26th	

### Altar Guild: LaDonna

### READERS:

April	5th	Arianna
April	12th	Judy Lee
April	19th	
April	26th	

### COMMUNION:

April	5th	Arianna
April	12th	
April	19th	
April	26th	



Mark called meeting to order

Pastor had devotions

Secretary's report – approved by Judy, second by Sandy

**Treasurers Report** – donation made by family of Bob Strommen, Doug made motion to put money in saving for now, Kristen second motion

New binders for pastor, Sandy motioned, Tereasa second

**Pastors report** – started doing visitation, vacation July 2<sup>nd</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, planning new member class.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Mission and outreach** – 62 people served in house, 178 meals delivered, 79 volunteer hours. Church in the park June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup> Sandy motion to approved dates, Tereasa second

**Property** – Water spot on ceiling in basement needs attention, garage door opener remote at parsonage needs to be replaced, does not work, Tony will look at it.

**Worship and music** – no new reports

**Education** – two new students, second and sixth grade  
Last day of church school April 29<sup>th</sup>

**Trust Fund** - no report

**Old business** – no old business

**New Business** – survey results, establish Western Synod delegates ( May 29<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> ) pastor suggested we have a town hall (Our Redeemers Congregation) in the near future April 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm at the church Pastor will lead the town hall meeting

Next meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm



## WELCA News April 2026

WELCA held a meeting on Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. Many items were discussed.

Thank you to Judy(Vic) and Donna for preparing and serving the Lenten Supper.

Many thanks to those who joined us for our visit to the Mott Care Center on Monday, March 23 in the afternoon. A special thank you to Julie and Pastor John for the wonderful music. Donuts, cuties, coffee and visiting were enjoyed by all.

WELCA has been asked to host the Potluck lunch for the Installation of Pastor John on Sunday, March 29 after our Worship service. Group I will Clean Up; Group II will Set Up; and Group III will serve. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for fellowship.

WELCA will be serving rolls, fruit, coffee and juice on Easter Sunday morning starting at 9:00 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. Group I will serve; Group II will clean up. Each group needs to provide a dozen rolls along with a frozen can of orange juice. Group III will be asked to bring a bowl of fruit. All are welcome.

It was decided to help with the April Birthday party to help dish up ice cream at St. Luke's on April 23 at 3:00 p.m. Any ladies willing to help please be at St. Luke's at 2:30 p.m.

Blessing of the quilts will be May 10 during our Worship Service.

A Senior Reception will be held after the Senior Sunday on May 17 for our NEHS graduates. A time will be set up for all the NEHS graduates to come and pick out a quilt. Thank you to the quilting ladies for providing these quilts. Congratulations to all the Graduates!! Further information will follow concerning the reception.

The Prayer chain has been used again and has been working quite well. Anyone, man or woman, who would like to be added to the list please let Bonnie know.

Spring, with all its beautiful blooms and new life, always has a way of reviving hope in our hearts. The wild beauty from the delicate dogwood blooms to the rich, bright greens of new leaves on the hardwoods pulls our minds to the Creator and His promises. Enjoy the sunshine!!





# Holy Week



**Join us for a reflective Maundy Thursday service at 7pm.** As we remember the night Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. We'll gather for Scripture, prayer and communion as we reflect on Christ's call to serve one another. All are welcome — bring a friend and share this meaningful start to Holy Week. **Please remember to bring a flashlight!!**

Join us on Easter Sunday for breakfast hosted by WELCA! Enjoy rolls, fruit, coffee, juice. Serving begins at 9am and continues till 9:45 am. All are welcome—come and celebrate together!!



**Easter Sunday April 5th : Festive worship celebrating The Resurrection of Our Lord!!**

**There will be a Sunrise Service at Zion at 7:30 am**

**Our Redeemer's Festival service at 10am**



# April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR.	FRI	SAT
			1 Bible Study 10am Church School	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	3 Good Friday	4
5 <b>Easter</b> Breakfast 9-9:45 Worship 10am	6 Quilting 9am All are Welcome!!	7	8 Bible Study 10am Church School	9	10	11
12 Coffee 9am Worship 10am	13 Quilting 9am All are Welcome!!	14	15 Bible Study 10am Church School Church Council meeting 7pm	16	17	18
19 Coffee 9am Worship 10am	20 Quilting 9am All are Welcome!!	21	22 Bible Study 10am Church School	23 St. Lukes April Birthday Party at 3pm	24	25
26 Coffee 9am Worship 10am	27 Quilting 9am All are Welcome!!	28	29 Bible Study 10am Last Day of Church School	30		

OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA  
PO Box 440  
New England, ND 58647

CHURCH STAFF

Interm Pastor: John VanHaneghan  
Secretary: Laurie Monke  
Music: Julie Opdahl  
Janitor: Laurie Monke  
Treasurer Laurie Monke

name

