

# Christ is Risen!

## Easter 2017

The “Good News” on Easter – that Christ is risen from the dead – isn’t really “news.” That is, we know the story. We have heard it for years. At times it hard to hear something “new” in this particular “Good News.”

But though the story is old, our lives – renewed by the Gospel – are new each day. And each day begins as we remember we are baptized children of God, that Christ is risen, that death has been conquered, that our sins are forgiven, and that we are free to live a new life – a life bold and unafraid. Because the troubles of the world can be so powerful, that understand has to be renewed every day.

So the Easter acclamation – “Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” – comes into each new day with good news.

The Christian faith is enduring and always present. Though Jesus was born long ago, he is born again into our lives as we grow in faith. Though the resurrection of Jesus was a historic event which happened at a particular time, Christ rises again as we call upon him, offer our prayer, worship and praise and experience his presence in the Holy Sacrament.

During Lent we remember that we receive the crucified Lord in the bread and wine of the Eucharist; Jesus’ body and blood. In faith we know that when we come to the sacrament we receive the forgiveness of our sins. And when we shout “Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!,” it is the crucified and risen Lord who comes to us, forgiving our sins and giving us strength to live as people of faith.

We used to say that Holy Communion given to a person nearing death was “viaticum,” literally meaning “provisions for a journey.” But the sacrament is also “provisions” for the living, strengthening our faith, giving us comfort in the troubles of life and courage to face whatever life brings.

I invite you to the solemnities of Holy Week and the joys of Easter. On Holy Thursday, we recall how our Lord instituted the Blessed Sacrament. On Good Friday, we stand before the cross, remembering that it was for our sins that Jesus died. On Easter Sunday we celebrate our Lord’s resurrection, that mighty act through which God completed the redemption of the world.

Then we declare that because Christ is risen, we are free and unafraid. We are God’s people; we share God’s love; we take our own part in “redeeming” the ills of the world as God has redeemed us. We move forward to the future.

Come. Celebrate. Receive the blessing. Then go. Live boldly as God’s people.

*See you in Church,  
Pastor Austin*

## Television Special on Luther and the Reformation by Rick Steves

The church library has a copy of the wonder television special by Rick Steves, “Luther and the Reformation.” It is a great telling of the story of Luther and the Reformation.



You will visit Wittenberg, Erfurt, and the Wartburg Castle in Eisleben, all critical sites in the reformer’s life. And Steves gives a thorough account of how the various forces of that time 500 years ago came together to produce, not only the Reformation, but the modern world.

Call the church office if you want to borrow the DVD.

### Our offerings: Where do they go?

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gave \$1.75 billion in offerings in 2015, according to the ELCA office of statistics. Of that \$1.75 billion, the ELCA’s national organization received \$47.1 million, or 2.7 percent of the total offerings in congregations. The ELCA has a total budget of about \$70 million, which includes income from investments bequests and trusts, grants and offerings designated for ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief.

Offerings made it possible for the ELCA to begin and support 371 new congregations, develop and share resources for ministry in all its congregations, support 228 missionaries in 40 countries, take part in the international work of the Lutheran World Federation in helping Lutherans around the world and provide other resources and services to train pastors and lay people as leaders for their churches.

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## Holy Week at Church of the Savior

### April 9—Palm/Passion Sunday

10am Worship and procession of the palms; led by our worship band. A reading of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of St. Luke

### April 13—Holy Thursday

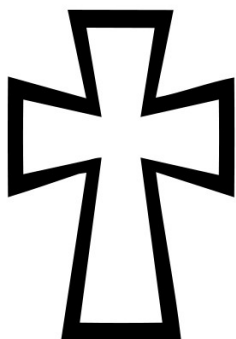
7:30pm Service of Holy Communion, individual absolution and the stripping of the altar.

### April 14—Good Friday

7:30pm Adoration of the Cross, as we stand before the cross of Jesus, remembering our sins, giving thanks for his sacrifice, the cost of our salvation.

### April 15— Holy Saturday

9:30 and 11am Easter Egg Hunt with prizes, refreshments, music for children. Everyone is invited and you may bring your friends.



### April 16—The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday

8am and 10am Festival Eucharist proclaiming “Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” Handel’s “Hallelujah” Chorus, sermon by Pastor Austin “Christ is Risen! The Future Vision!”

## Lutheran Schools Sunday is April 23

This is the day we honor our school, its students, parents and teachers.

### Also at our school:

Moms of four-year olds will have tea on Wednesday, May 10 and Friday, May 12.

April 17-21 is “Fun Week,” which will include Crazy Hat Day, Mismatched Clothes Day, Bring your Favorite Snack Day and Silly Hair Day.



## We are in South Sudan, helping in the name of Jesus



The ELCA is at work in South Sudan where more than 7 million people need humanitarian assistance because of drought and civil unrest. According to UNICEF, famine was declared in the north-central part of the country, where 100,000 people face imminent starvation.

The ELCA has worked with families in the region for decades. “And in this time of increased crisis, we are blessed by both relationship and presence,” said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Appeal.

The ELCA works with others to deliver immediate famine relief, one of its three focus areas in the region. The other two, sustainable food security and sustained ministry, center around the church’s commitment to build resilient and empowered communities.

This commitment to the people of South Sudan and the ministerial leadership of those from South Sudan has led to a new church – the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan. The church operates the Lutheran Community Center and Clinic, currently under construction in the nation’s capital, Juba. The ELCA helps fund the construction of the Center and Clinic.

“This project will train mission leaders, conduct outreach programs and, ultimately, raise up an ethnically and culturally diverse church,” said Andrew Steele, director of ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.

## Worship Notes: Read “the fine print” at the bottom of hymns

Often, at the bottom of a hymn, below the staves of music, is some “fine print.” This tells who wrote the hymn and includes the years of their life, the name of the tune which is sung, and sometimes the name of the one who translated the hymn into English.



There is not always room to print this information, but when you see it, you can learn more about the origin of the hymn. Some of our hymns are hundreds of years old, many were written in the last two centuries and some are more recent. The “fine print” tells you the age of the hymn.

## **In Living Lutheran: Our Church and its People at Work**

**D**id you know that in “Living Lutheran” (formerly The Lutheran), you can find exciting news about our church, its congregations, its world-wide missions, its interaction with society and our social service. In “Living Lutheran,” you will meet people from all walks of life in all parts of the country who are “living Lutheran,” that is, being faithful Christians as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Sign on to [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org)

## **Who are we? Lutherans 500 years ago, Lutherans today**

**O**ur Sunday morning forum and our Thursday afternoon Bible study has begun a look at The Augsburg Confession, a basic Lutheran statement of faith delivered to Emperor Charles V and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in 1530 at a parliament in the German city of Augsburg. There are 28 “articles,” 21 of them stating where Luther and the

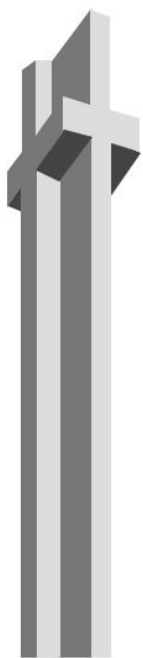


Reformers believe they are still proclaiming the faith of the whole church, and seven articles listing abuses that they believe need correcting. Some of the “abuses” have been corrected, others are still under discussion.

Join us for the discussion at 9am Sunday or 1pm on Thursday.

## **From the interim pastor:**

### **Looking Ahead: A Future Unknown and Known, Promises and Challenges**



**H**ow long does this take, this calling of a new pastor? I know you are asking that question. The answer is: We don’t really know. It can happen in three months, it can take a couple of years. We do know that we are moving forward in the search. Keep praying that you are shown the person who can be the next pastor here.

But meanwhile (and forever), I ask that you strengthen your own faith and commitment. The Church of the Savior is more than the pastor and no matter who the pastor is, you – the members – guided by the Holy Spirit and fueled by your own efforts will be the key to what lies ahead.

Years ago, with many members, large families and historic commitments to the Church of the Savior, the congregation flourished; sometimes with a smaller number of key people doing most of the “work.” Today, every member has work to do to keep the church healthy.

While we do not yet know who the next pastor will be, we do know that God is with us as we move ahead. We do know that God’s promises remain. We do know that we will face the challenges of faith in the 21st Century.

Having been your part-time interim pastor for the last 18 months, I can say with confidence: You can do it. You have strong faith; you can strengthen your commitment. You trust God’s promises and you can face the challenges.

See you in Church  
Pastor Austin