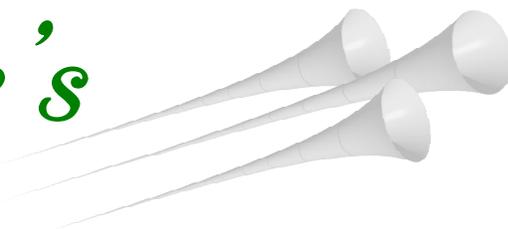


# The Savior's Call



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Hallelujah Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed Hallelujah” is our Easter proclamation.

On Easter morning we proclaim the tomb is empty and death has no hold upon us. It allows us to look forward with hope. Hope that simple little word. Hope that word that can get us moving when all we have is despair. Hope a powerful word that can move mountains. On Easter morning we hear hope anew.

We gather every Easter to remember, to retell and give thanks for the saving grace in the redemptive hope of God. We gather to remind ourselves of hope! In Easter we are reminded that we are a covenant people who will live in a love relationship with a God whom we know in the story of creation, liberation, deliverance, salvation and resurrection.

On Easter morning we see the hope in the cross. The hopeless tool is turned upside down by God and turned into an instrument of hope. We hear again the power of the cross. God makes God' self-present through weakness, vulnerability, suffering, forsaken and in the dying. In our abyss of our despair, in the painful reality of our mortality, in our ultimate loneliness God WILL find us. God always finds us in our darkness, our pain, our weakness and embraces us with total and unconditional acceptance. We see and we celebrate Christ.

On Easter morning we say to death no, YOU DO NOT HAVE THE LAST WORD. We continue to proclaim the resurrection of Christ and share in the meal receiving the fullness of Christ. We retell and remember this story. Nourished by the story and by the bread and the wine, we are sent forth to live in God's world and be part of the story. We are invited to be part of the story of salvation as our response to God's grace. That is hope.

Easter is morning of hope where we tell each other the story of our salvation and the truths of our history. The truth is that we are not alone. God is with us, God is present, God walks with us. God is Immanuel with us always. God makes all things new. We are continued to be gathered, formed, shaped, healed and united as the body of Christ.

God continues to act. The story is old, but it is not finished. It is ongoing and we are part of that story. God is deeply embedded with God's people. God is a god of liberation and God's story goes on. The liberation, the salvation, the redemption continues with our hands and feet doing God's work.

Praise God. Praise God always.

Hallelujah Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed Hallelujah

*Pastor Paul*

# B

UILDINGS  
UDGETS  
ENEFITS

## **BUILDINGS, BUDGETS, AND BENEFITS**

**Saturday, May 11 - 9:30am -2pm**

Resurrection Lutheran Church

4315 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

Let our EMU Team help you prepare budgets, manage finances, steward buildings, and coordinate Portico benefits through networking and best practices.

We will gather for coffee at 9:30am on Sat, May 11, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, right behind the Synod Office. Plan to be on your way home by 2:00pm!

This is a great event for treasurers, finance teams, property leaders, and pastors.

Cost: \$10 per congregation



## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Saturday, April 20**

**(rain or shine)**

**Two sessions**

**9:30am & 11am**

**Don't miss it! Invite EVERY CHILD YOU KNOW to this fun celebration of what Easter is really about!**

Each session features songs by children's composer Bill Vollinger, refreshments, and of course, the Egg Hunt. Children look for paper "eggs" and redeem them for prizes at the "Redemption Center." Each child also receives a goody bag on the way out. Your free will offerings at the egg hunt will help us offset our expenses. Please bring a snack or beverage to share to the refreshment center.

To register, please call Janet at the church office at: 201-261-0420. Capacity is limited. Reservations taken on first come first serve basis.

**Mark your calendar today!**

## WHAT HAPPENED CHURCH?

Below is an excerpt from the website: What Happened Church? This blog is written by Dr. David Luecke a Lutheran pastor in Ohio.

Dr. Luecke greatly admires the Apostle Paul. Paul was a world-class entrepreneur who established a new religion in the Roman Empire. To do that he showed himself to be an organizational genius and a top-level analyst. From Paul's letters, we see how he could recognize what was going wrong in churches he helped establish and point out what needed to be done. Paul stressed the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit much more than we traditional Protestants do.

The title of this article is "Why so Many Young Adults Went Missing"  
<https://whathappened.church/blog/why-young-adults-went-missing/>

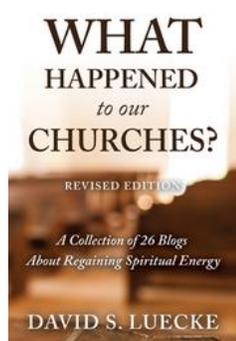
"Based on a recent survey, Brian Kinnaman in his book *UnChristian* observes that 16-29 year-olds who consider themselves outside Christianity are about 40% of their age group. Among them, 91% see Christianity as anti-homosexual, 87% as judgmental, 85% as hypocritical, 78% as old-fashioned, 75% as too involved in politics, 72% as out of touch with reality. If this is how they see Christianity, what could Christian churches offer them? Recognize also that this generation grew up being warned to stay away from priests who might be child molesters.

Church loyalties are swiftly disappearing. The basic Christian challenge in America now is to demonstrate the practical value of biblical beliefs and teaching for daily living. But the audience out there is no longer just neutral. Many are actively hostile.

One challenge is to help preachers and others who follow the heritage of John Calvin realize that they can no longer presume to project the norms of reformed Christian behavior on the whole nation. Whether or not the United States was Christian at the beginning is irrelevant. We aren't anymore. For churched Christians, applying those norms in the present culture takes wisdom and sensitivity based on love, not anger.

Paul and the Christ followers in the early centuries knew how to handle themselves as a small minority in a very hostile culture. They had to base their appeal to others on the quality of relationships developed in their fellowships. Theirs was a loving God who interacted with his people through his special Spirit. Our Christian challenge today is to live and witness like early-century Christians in a nation that is no longer predominantly Christian. To do so will be a radical challenge for many preachers and congregations.

Perception is reality in our complicated society. Brian Kinnaman presents well the challenge of today. We can learn to respond to the unchurched by acting the way Jesus did. This means reacting to criticism with the right perspective—not dismissing it as unwarranted, not being defined by it, and by considering the below-the-surface motivations. In other words, we have to be defined by our service and sacrifice, by lives exuding humility and grace. If a young outsider can't see Jesus in our lives, it is up to us to solve our 'hidden Jesus problem.'



**Application  
Procedure Please  
speak to  
Pastor Paul.**

## **WURFFEL COLLEGE LOAN FUND**

A limited amount of financial aid for Lutheran college students is available through the Karl, John, Elizabeth Wurffel Memorial Fund. The aid will be provided in the form of student loans; however, the terms for the loans will be very beneficial for the recipients.

\*Eligibility is as follows:

- Any member of a New Jersey Synod, ELCA, congregation planning to attend or enrolled in a matriculated program of study in an accredited 4-year or 2-year college or university may apply. Loans are for undergraduate study only.
- Priority of consideration is given on the basis of financial need and activity in the life of the church, as described by the recommendation letter of the applicant's pastor. Further, priority is given first to students attending any ELCA Lutheran College or University, and then to any accredited 4-year or 2-year college or university.
- Assistance is provided on a one-year basis, with the possibility for applicants to reapply annually up to five years. A new application must be submitted each year.

church of the savior  
nursery school



## **NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

HOSANNA! "HE IS RISEN" and "JESUS IS ALIVE" must be some of the most important words ever spoken by angel or man. They will be taught to the children of the Nursery School this month, along with the stories of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our focus will always be on the positive words of "GOD POWER" and "LIFE." Come to think of it, we grown ups can benefit by having a child-like faith and focusing on the positive power of God regardless of the world situations around us. The Resurrection of Christ gave and still gives us the resurrection of hope, the resurrection of joy, the resurrection of peace and the resurrection of life. Enjoy Him through this amazing season.

Happy Easter. Love from the Nursery School Staff

## CALENDAR of Events

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### APRIL

- Apr 14 Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins  
Coffee Hour Follows Worship
- Apr 15-22 Spring Break - No School
- Apr 18 Maundy Thursday  
12pm & 7:30pm Worship
- Apr 19 Good Friday  
12pm & 7:30pm Worship
- Apr 20 Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30 and 11am
- Apr 21 Easter Day - 8am & 10am Worship
- Apr 28 Coffee Hour Follows Worship

#### MAY

- May 4 Men's Breakfast - 8am  
Fish Fry - 3:30pm
- May 11 Music at Savior - Brendan Rooney - 3pm



### COMPASSION CHILD

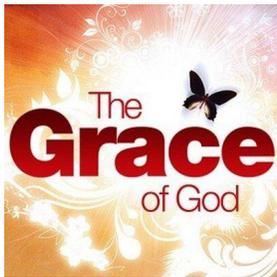
The Sunday School Compassion Child is Jam Marrjenel V. Balilo. Jam has been our Compassion Child since May 11, 2011. The children in the Sunday School have been writing to her since she was 13 years old. She is now 21.

Jam lives in the Philippines on the plains of BagongBario Caloocan City, home to approximately 1,177,600 residents. It is between Quezon City and Manilla. Jam lives with father and mother and her three younger brothers. She attends Church, Vacation Bible School and Youth Group. Our sponsorship allows the Paglinang Student Center Program to provide Jam with Bible teaching, medical and dental checkups, vaccinations, camps, sports, birthday celebrations, tuition, computer and typing courses.

Compassion International translates all of our letters. Thank you to Marissa Kane, Carly Majoros, Sophia and Christian Conrad, Christophe Moderacki, Karalyn and Matthew Morrow and Abigail Opthof, who helped me write letters to Jam.



~Joan Baumann



## THE GRACE OF GOD

I often use the expression “the grace of God’ to my daughters when I tell them about something good that happened that day, and something good happens most days. My daughter questioned that recently. She said “Oh Mom, what

about people that don’t experience good things? Does God not like them?” And I thought about it and I realized that’s why Jesus said, “We have to spread the Word of God so other people can feel the benefits of God’s love.” Jesus said a

number of times as Christians we have to do His will by reaching out to people with the message of his love. We can’t just keep it to ourselves. We’ve got share our love for other people so God can love them through us.”  
~Gloria Wilson



## FISH FRY

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**3:30pm—7:30pm**  
**\$20 per person**

Come for a mouth-watering fish and chips dinner prepared by **TASTEFULLY BRITISH FISH AND CHIPS** served to us right here on our grounds at Church of the Savior. It’s fun for the whole family! Invite friends and neighbors to come for an evening of great food and fellowship. On the menu: fish and chips with all the fixings – coleslaw, cocktail sauce, tartar sauce, and malt vinegar. Optional chicken tender and fries dinner also available. Soft drinks, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided. Children under age 2 are free. Make your reservations by **Saturday, April 29th.**

Contact Susan Conrad at:

[susanconrad65@gmail.com](mailto:susanconrad65@gmail.com) or 201-982-0831

Please pay by check or exact change only.

## PRAYER VENTURES: SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYERS EVERY DAY, ALL YEAR LONG



When it comes to prayer, there is no shortage of people and situations to include in our prayerful conversations with God. Sometimes it helps to have a little prompting though — reminders of special concerns of the church and world, ELCA programs and ministries, special occasions in the church calendar or ideas for ministries to remember in prayer that might otherwise slip by us. ELCA Prayer Ventures offers such prayer suggestions for every day of the year. Prayer Ventures can be used for personal prayer, adapted for use in worship, posted online or shared with members. They are posted for download a month in advance at [ELCA.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures](https://elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures) and featured daily at [livinglutheran.org](https://livinglutheran.org). It's free and fresh each month!

*Articles Reprinted  
from **Seeds for the  
Parish***

## ELCA PODCAST “THREE SIDES” LAUNCHED

There are two sides to every story, the saying goes. But what about when an unexpected third side is revealed, giving the story even more dimensionality? The ELCA's new monthly podcast, “Three Sides,” offers a fresh way to tell the unique, compelling and sometimes surprising stories of this church. “Three Sides” presents diverse voices from across all expressions of the ELCA. The podcast is hosted by Shanna Crawford, director for accounting with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund; Phil LaDeur, program assistant for hunger education with ELCA World Hunger; and Andrew Steele, director of ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. Episode topics so far have included women who lead, church in community, and how congregations can best serve children and families. Good news: something we can use more of today. Even the hosts found themselves learning about ELCA initiatives and experiences through the stories “Three Sides” explores. “I had no idea that the church was at work in so many different places and in so many ways,” LaDeur said. Crawford agreed: “I’ve been able to take a deep dive into all things Lutheran and hear the stories of some amazing people.” She enjoys “being part of lifting up these stories and issues and adding a bit of commentary along the way.” Positive stories are happening throughout our congregations, synods and church-wide ministries.” When “Three Sides” made the iTunes top 100 in the Religion & Spirituality pod-cast category in its first week of launching, the hosts were especially encouraged. “It’s amazing how much God is doing through us, and I see the podcast as being a great tool to get these stories out to the rest of the church and the world,” Steele said. “Three Sides” is available at [livinglutheran.org/podcast](https://livinglutheran.org/podcast) and via iTunes, Spotify and Stitcher. Have an idea for a podcast topic? Send them to [threesides@elca.org](mailto:threesides@elca.org)



Hosts of the new ELCA podcast, “Three Sides”: Andrew Steele, Shanna Crawford and Phil LaDeur.



God's work. Our hands.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[www.churchofthesavior-lutheran.org](http://www.churchofthesavior-lutheran.org)

Website

[coslutheran@verizon.net](mailto:coslutheran@verizon.net)

Church Email

201-261-0420

Church Office & Nursery School

845-234-1223

Pastor Paul Miller

CONTACT US

The church office  
will be closed  
April 19 & 22  
in observance of  
Good Friday & Easter Monday.



## God's Work, Our Hands

Church of the Savior—Lutheran  
Church of the Savior Nursery School  
643 Forest Avenue  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

