



## ST. LUCAS LANTERN

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**We Bring People to Christ, Nurture People in Christ, and Equip People for Christ**

**APRIL 2024**

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Christ Is Risen! Are you tired of hearing that, yet? Me neither! Who could ever get tired of celebrating Christ victory over death and His resurrection, where He showed without a doubt that He truly is the Son of God. Still, there are a lot of different rumors floating around about how this holiday got its origin, and whether or not a "good Christian" can celebrate a holiday named after an "Anglo-Saxon goddess". If you have never heard of these rumors, consider yourselves lucky. If you have and they have left you thinking "why does the church celebrate Easter? Did we re-appropriate an ancient pagan tradition for our own purposes?" I hope to help you navigate these questions in this article.

I would like to start by dispelling a rumor that Easter is just the Roman Catholic church's way of taking a pagan holiday named after the celebration of the Goddess of Spring named Ishtar and reforming it into a church celebration. You must understand that those who make this claim do so based on an *assumption* that does not have definitive evidence. People can be bold in making any statement they want when they are talking about "what if's" that cannot be proven false. What I mean by this is: they cannot prove this theory any more than you can disprove it. However, *even if* the modern name of the holiday comes from a pagan tradition and *even if* secular traditions surrounding the holiday also come from that, Resurrection Day was celebrated long before it was assigned the name "easter" and egg hunts were started. The celebration of Christ resurrection is, in fact, the oldest known church tradition, far exceeding the establishment of the papacy or even Emperor Constantine's legalization of Christianity. We have records from the Second Century... 100's A.D. showing definitively that churches had already set aside one day out of the year to celebrate the

resurrection, long before “easter” was designated to be the name of the celebration.

Another awesome thing to know about the celebration of Christ’s resurrection is that it is likely the reason we now worship on a Sunday rather than a Saturday (the traditional Jewish Sabbath). This celebration was done on the “eighth day” according to second century documents, and was considered to be the “Lord’s Day” as it was the day we celebrate His resurrection. Contrast this to the Christmas celebration, for which there is no documented evidence for prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. What does this mean for us? When we celebrate easter we join with Christians from the earliest churches in acknowledging the resurrection of Christ to be the greatest event in all of human history!

If you are tired of the commercialization of Easter and seeing all the bunnies and eggs around, that is perfectly understandable. I also understand if you prefer to refer to it as “Resurrection Day” rather than “Easter.” We certainly like to strip holidays of Christ in our modern culture, and that can be frustrating for those of us who know what the holiday is really about. Still, be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Rather than allowing Easter to be a time when you find yourself upset, perhaps you can use the cultural traditions around easter as a means of sharing the Gospel of Christ with those you wouldn’t otherwise be able to reach!

Regardless of what you choose to call it, or what traditions you choose to embrace during this season, my prayer is that you do not allow exterior factors to steal your joy at the celebration of what Christ has done for us. This is an excellent time where our voices join with all Christians who compose the Body of Christ past, present, and future, in triumphantly proclaiming *He Is Risen Indeed, Hallelujah!*

Afterword: If you are a history buff, like me, and are interested in learning more about the way the church operated in the first few centuries, a great reference is *Ancient Christianity: The development of its Institutions and Practices* by Angelo Di Berardino.

*Tyler Simmons*

**VICARAGE:** The assignment of Seminarian Biruk Chicksa as Vicar to St. Lucas starting July 1, 2024 through June 30, has been approved. His vicarage assignment will be announced at the Call Day Service at the Seminary on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be livestreamed.



**APRIL COFFEE-TAWLK:** *Working together in the Church - how do we all pull together in joy and not fall apart?*

While the word teamwork does not appear in the Bible, the Word of God say a lot about working together. The most foundational team is His Church. The moment people believe in Christ as their Lord and Savior, they immediately become part of His team, and can count on never being alone. *John 15* tells us that if we abide in Jesus, He will abide in us, and that apart from Him we can bear no fruit.

Join us for this All-In Discipleship discussion on Sunday, April 21st at 9:15 a.m. in the gym at St. Lucas. Hosted by Pastor Larson, it will be a casual, informal, and friendly discussion on how we as individuals can work together to reach our full potential in serving His kingdom. As always, there will be a light breakfast served! You won't want to miss this important discussion. Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

**St. Lucas Youth Event will be on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available in the weekly email newsletter.**



**BINGO: April 4, 6:30 p.m.**

April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room.

Come and bring a friend (or 2)! This month we are

playing bingo. The cost to play is \$5.00. Our charity this month is Feed My People and they are requesting personal care items (men & women) such as soap, shampoo, razors, hand cream, feminine hygiene supplies, etc. Some people bring snacks to share but neither a donation or snacks is mandatory. I hope you can join us!

If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, there is a black & white tote in the back of church where you can put your items.

If you plan on attending, please let me know - Sharon Majoros – (314) -922-4678 or sharon.m3845@yahoo.com.



**EVENING BIBLE CLASS: "Unshakable"**

A New Adult Evening, In Person, Bible Study for everyone starting April 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

This is an eight lesson Bible study that looks at eight Biblical characters whom God shook to the core, and then used to point people to the hope of salvation. Learn their history, peer into their struggles, and see how God moved in their lives to teach us vital spiritual lessons today.

Workbooks are available, free of charge. The eight lesson videos are approximately 35 minutes long. Phil and Carol Miksad will lead these lessons.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: May 3 - 5, 2024** - LWML SELC District Convention - Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA



**NEW "ALL GOD'S WOMEN" BIBLE**

**CLASS:** Hello church chicks! Starting on Monday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m., there will be a 4-week Bible study on the women of Acts. Come and learn about these women of the early church and how they spread the good news that Paul preached. We will meet Dorcas, Lydia, the fortune telling woman, and Priscilla. Bring

your Bible or use one that we have in the classroom. Church dudes are welcome too!

Contact Mary Bartlow for more information at (314) 286-0049 or [mary.bartlow@stlucaslcms.org](mailto:mary.bartlow@stlucaslcms.org)

Did I mention? THERE WILL BE PASTRIES!



**FOUNDATION FOR LIFE CLASS**

*Begins Sunday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.*

*The teachings of the Christian faith found in the Bible give great meaning to your life!*

Completion of the class can lead to membership in the church, but there is no obligation. If we discover that this time does not work for you, we'll look for an alternative. Contact Pastor Larson by [email](#) or phone, (314) 623-2410.



## LWML SELC Monthly Women's Bible Studies - 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am CST

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The ever so popular LWML SELC Monthly Women's Bible Studies are back for 2024 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 Central Standard Time.

The Bible Studies are taken from the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. You can find a copy of the latest Quarterly on the St. Lucas LWML table in the narthex. You are welcome to take a Quarterly, free of charge, even if you are unable to attend a morning Bible study.

This Bible study will be "Five Stones for Service" in the Winter Issue and then we will be in the Spring Issue! Hope to see you Thursday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 4660 7019

Serve the Lord with gladness!



We create quality, artistic jewelry and accessories as a unique way to engage in the fight against sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

[monarchjewelry.org](https://monarchjewelry.org)



**SAVE THE DATE!** VBS is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for June 3-7, from 9:00 a.m. until noon each day. **SCUBA \* Diving Into Friendship with God** will take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.

As always, we need lots of volunteers to make this wonderful ministry a success. The volunteers' availability changes each year as jobs/school/circumstances change, and we are especially looking for volunteers this year. Please contact Cindy Riley at 314-249-6036 or at [rileyvacation@hotmail.com](mailto:rileyvacation@hotmail.com) if you would love to help kids dive below the surface to build a strong faith.



**ECC:** The children had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday the week of March 5. We had a mixed-up Monday, Top it Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, wore red or

blue for Thursday, and finished the week off with a Pajama day. Now we are eagerly waiting to learn about Easter.





## April

Date	Early Service	Late Service
<b>April 7</b>	Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Diane Dymond ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Robert McNiel ( <b>Reader</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Usher</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay, Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Techs</b> )	Art Matia ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Ken Ely ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Nancy Roach ( <b>Reader</b> ) Ron & Joan Shebik ( <b>Usher</b> ) Zachary Aguado ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Stacey Wellman, Caylin Schlesselman ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
<b>April 14</b>	Nancy Roach (Comm Setup) Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Judy Willenbrock ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Joyce Bruss ( <b>Reader</b> ) Jane Townsend- Solovic, Stan Shurmantine ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Techs</b> )	Travis Lawson ( <b>Elder</b> ) Dorothy Arbet ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Don Baggett ( <b>Reader</b> ) Robert McNiel, Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Caylin Schlesselman ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Liz Kurtz, Vivian Kramer ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
<b>April 21</b>	Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Joyce Kolnik ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Pat Carlton ( <b>Reader</b> ) Tom & Nicole Buffington ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Carolyn Crump, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Techs</b> )	Jane Mihalevich (Comm Setup) Robert McNiel ( <b>Elder</b> ) Charlotte ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Stephanie Belko ( <b>Reader</b> ) Art Matia, Ken Ely ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Johnny Bewig ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Sue Hasselbring, Taylor McCallister ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
<b>April 28</b>	Laurie Ely, Nancy Roach (Comm Setup) Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Deb Rose ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Mary Bartlow ( <b>Reader</b> ) Judy Willenbrock, Sharon Majoros ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay, Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Techs</b> )	Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Travis Lawson ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Kayla Barnes ( <b>Reader</b> ) Laura Riley ( <b>Usher</b> ) Dalton Costick ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Dawn Schlesselman, Vivian Kramer ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )





## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 – Larry Gilliland	13 – Josh Aguado
2 – Mark Zipay Jr.	14 – Cindy Riley
3 – Sharon Bierman	19 – Myrna Land
Barrett Taylor	Dennis Lee
4 – John Simmons	Kamron Shclesselman
6 – Ian Baggett	22 – Tiffany Adams
7 – Rachel Crump	Barbara Schmaltz
Norman Hinkamp	24 – Jacob Larson
8 – Lillian Willis	Phillip Miksad
9 – Christopher Meuer	25 – Ian Dymond
10 – Kristen Warner	Hanah Olechnovics
11 – Kyle Crump	26 – Mauriene Adams
12 – Matthew Fahrenkamp	Deborah Rose
Michael Murry	John Simmons
Owen Venegoni	30 – Cathy Wooldridge

## APRIL ANNIVERSIERS

11 – Ryan & Kate Hoyt	4 years
11 – Kenny & Liz Kurtz	9 years
16 – Dave & Stacey Wellman	36 years
21 – Michael & Teresa Schuster	34 years
26 – Steve & Debbie Intagliata	27 years

**GREETING CARDS:** Greeting cards are available. They are located on a table outside of the church office in the main entrance. There are birthday, thank you, sympathy, get well cards, gift card holders and more. Personalized cards can be made. Proceeds go to the Approved Special Projects. For more information contact Kathy Christopher (314) 351-2628 or [officeofstlucas@yahoo.com](mailto:officeofstlucas@yahoo.com).



St. Lucas helps Feed My People with donations from our members. In the month of April, we are asking for any kind of donation, canned goods, personal products, etc. Feed My People provides these items to their clients, as needed.

**Volunteers** are needed at the High Ridge Location. Contact Mary Hettenhausen at (636) 677-9885 if you would like to volunteer.



# Reading Through the Word

## APRIL

- 1 ... Judges 11 & 12; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 1  
2 ... Judges 13 & 14 & 15 & 16; 2 Corinthians 2  
3 ... Judges 17 & 18; Psalm 89; 2 Corinthians 3  
4 ... Judges 19 & 20 & 21; 2 Corinthians 4  
5 ... Ruth 1 & 2; Psalms 53 & 61; 2 Corinthians 5  
6 ... Ruth 3 & 4; Psalms 64 & 65; 2 Corinthians 6  
7 ... 1 Samuel 1 & 2; Psalm 66; 2 Corinthians 7  
8 ... 1 Samuel 3 & 4 & 5; Psalm 77; 2 Corinthians 8  
9 ... 1 Samuel 6 & 7; Psalm 72; 2 Corinthians 9  
10 ... 1 Samuel 8 & 9 & 10; 2 Corinthians 10  
11 ... 1 Samuel 11 & 12; 1 Chronicles 1; 2 Corinthians 11  
12 ... 1 Samuel 13; 1 Chronicles 2 & 3; 2 Corinthians 12  
13 ... 1 Samuel 14; 1 Chronicles 4; 2 Corinthians 13  
14 ... 1 Samuel 15 & 16; 1 Chronicles 5; Matthew 1  
15 ... 1 Samuel 17; Psalm 9; Matthew 2  
16 ... 1 Samuel 18; 1 Chronicles 6; Psalm 11; Matthew 3  
17 ... 1 Samuel 19; 1 Chronicles 7; Psalm 59; Matthew 4  
18 ... 1 Samuel 20 & 21; Psalm 34; Matthew 5  
19 ... 1 Samuel 22; Psalms 17 & 35; Matthew 6  
20 ... 1 Samuel 23; Psalms 31 & 54; Matthew 7  
21 ... 1 Samuel 24; Psalms 57 & 58; 1 Chronicles 8;  
Matthew 8  
22 ... 1 Samuel 25 & 26; Psalm 63; Matthew 9  
23 ... 1 Samuel 27; 1 Chronicles 9; Psalm 141; Matthew 10  
24 ... 1 Samuel 28 & 29 ; Psalm 109; Matthew 11  
25 ... 1 Samuel 30 & 31; 1 Chronicles 10; Matthew 12  
26 ... 2 Samuel 1; Psalm 140; Matthew 13  
27 ... 2 Samuel 2; 1 Chronicles 11; Psalm 142; Matthew 14  
28 ... 2 Samuel 3; 1 Chronicles 12; Matthew 15  
29 ... 2 Samuel 4 & 5; Psalm 139; Matthew 16  
30 ... 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13; Psalm 68; Matthew 17

