

THE GRAPEVINE

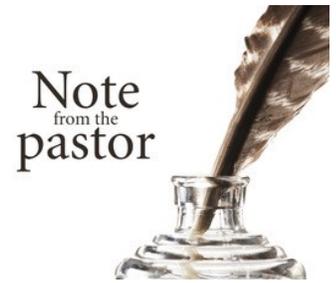
Greetings Faithful Disciples of Jesus,

I thought you might find this article interesting. I was doing some reading after Easter and this article caught my attention. I enjoyed it and I hope you do too. Easter Effect among the first Christians: *the way they thought about their responsibilities changed*. What had happened to Jesus, they slowly began to grasp, was not just about their former teacher and friend; it was about all of them. His destiny was their destiny. So not only could they face opposition, scorn and even death with confidence; they could offer to others the truth and the fellowship they had been given. Indeed, they had to do so, to be faithful to what they had experienced. Christian mission is inconceivable without Easter. And that mission would eventually lead these sons and daughters of Abraham to the conviction that the promise that God had made to the People of Israel had been extended to those who were not sons and daughters of Abraham. Because of Easter, the gentiles too could be embraced in a relationship—a covenant—with the one God which was embodied in righteous living.

The way they thought about worship and its temporal rhythms changed. For the Jews who were the first members of the Jesus movement, nothing was more sacrosanct than the Sabbath, the seventh day of rest and worship. The Sabbath was enshrined in creation, for God himself had rested on the seventh day. The Sabbath's importance as a key behavioral marker of the People of God had been reaffirmed in the Ten Commandments. Yet these first Christians, all Jews, quickly fixed Sunday as the "Lord's Day," because Easter had been a Sunday. Benedict XVI draws out the crucial point here:

"Only an event that marked souls indelibly could bring about such a profound realignment of the religious culture of the week. Mere theological speculations could not have achieved this... [The] celebration of the Lord's day, which was characteristic of the Christian community from the outset, is one of the most convincing proofs that something extraordinary happened [at Easter]—the discovery of the empty tomb and the encounter with the Risen Lord."

Without the Easter Effect, there is really no explaining why there was a winning side—the Christian side—for Constantine the Great to choose. That effect, as Prof. Wright puts it, begins with, and is incomprehensible without, the first Christians' conviction that "Jesus of Nazareth was raised bodily to a new sort of life, three days after his execution." Recognizing that does not, of course, convince everyone. Nor does it end the mystery of Easter. The first Christians, like Christians today, cannot fully comprehend resurrected life: the life depicted in the Gospels of a transphysical body that can eat, drink and be touched but that also appears and disappears, unbothered by obstacles like doors and distance.



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Note	1-2
Birthdays	2
Church News	3
Outreach	4
Fellowship	4
Small Groups	5
Music	5
Prayers	6
Shut Ins	6
Ministry Schedule	7

Nor does Easter mean that everything is always going to turn out just fine, for there is still work to be done in history. As Benedict XVI put it in his 2010 Easter message: “Easter does not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church, after the Resurrection, always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief and anguish. And yet this history is changed...it is truly open to the future.”

Which perhaps offers one final insight into the question with which we began: How did the Jesus movement, beginning on the margins of civilization and led by people of seeming inconsequence, end up being what Constantine regarded as the winning side? However important the role of sociological factors in explaining why Christianity carried the day, there also was that curious and inexplicable joy that marked the early Christians, even as they were being marched off to execution. Was that joy simply delusion? Denial?

Perhaps it was the Easter Effect: the joy of people who had become convinced that they were witnesses to something inexplicable but nonetheless true. Something that gave a superabundance of meaning to life and that erased the fear of death. Something that had to be shared. Something with which to change the world.

May we too join this movement and change the world.

Blessings+
Pastor Don



5/4—Susie Craddock

5/5—Mary Klotz

5/6—Bob Carter

5/12—Kay Myrick

5/13—Kaitlyn Porter

5/17—Diane Meier

5/17—Larry Krodel

5/17—Lynn Wahoski

5/21—Mary Ferley

5/22—Lee Hodoval

5/22—Jessica Koewler

5/23—Abbygail Ferley

5/24—Halley Wozniak

5/25—Sue Stuckemeyer

5/28—Scott Larsen

5/31—Judy Mehne



CHURCH NEWS

Youth Group

Every Wednesday, Youth Group for **ages 11-18** is held in the fellowship hall from **6:00—7:30pm year-round**. *Invite a friend and check it out!*

Rummage Sale

We will be having a Rummage Sale on **May 5 from 8am-12pm** to help raise money for the youth to go to camp. As you do your spring cleaning, please bring gently used items in good condition that you no longer need to the church for the sale. In addition, we need people to help the kids get ready and man the sale. *Please come by on Friday, May 4, beginning at 4:00 pm to help get everything set up and/or again on May 5 to help during the sale.* We are also looking for donations of shopping bags (Target, Walmart, etc.) for people to take their purchases home in. Thank you!

AED/Defibrillator Training

First On Scene CPR will be hosting a training on how to use the AED/Defibrillator on **May 6** between services. Please come and learn how to use this important lifesaving device.



Graduation Sunday

We will be honoring our High School and College graduates on **Sunday, May 20**. We want to make sure we include everyone, so please let the office know if you have a student who will be graduating with the class of 2018. Thank you!



Preschool

The Preschool Team would like to thank the congregation for their continued support and dedication to the Preschool ministry.

We are still accepting donations of used cell phones for the classrooms as well as greeting cards. Please save your junk mail return envelopes. The preschool uses them for parent payments.

Thank you again for everything you do!

—St. Mark's Preschool Team



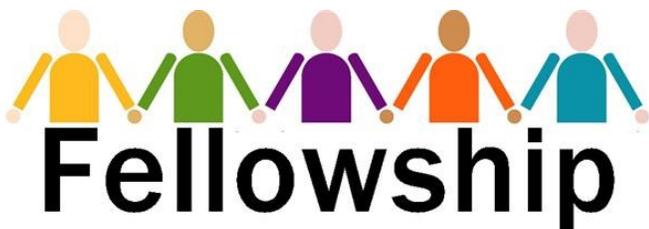
End Of School Bash

We will be having an end of the school year bash on **Wednesday, May 23 from 6:00-7:30 pm** with food, games, and an inflatable obstacle course. Families welcome and bring a friend! *Please RSVP to Karen Dunlap at 812-476-6800 or the office at 812-476-3018.*

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held **June 18th through June 22nd from 5pm- 7:30pm, with dinner from 5-5:30pm.** Children ages 4 through those finishing 5th grade are welcome to join in the fun! Those older than 5th grade are welcome to be helpers! The theme this year is Polar Blast: Where Jesus' Love is Cool! Monday through Thursday will be our regular VBS and Friday we will have a "Family Night" where the families join us for dinner and a movie on the lawn. **We will need lots of volunteers to make this possible!** We will also need volunteers to provide meals Monday through Thursday and help with serving at Family Night on Friday. *In addition, we are also asking for donations of fleece in 2-yard increments or gift cards to craft stores to purchase fleece for the children to make blankets for those in need.* Please email me with any questions at krski921@wowway.com. Thank you for your support!

-Kelsie Tarter



Ladies' Night Out

Ladies' Night Out will be held on **May 1 at 6:00 pm.** Please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area if interested.

YaYa Banquet

Ladies, mark your calendars! The YaYa Banquet will be held on **May 6** after 2nd service. Cost will be \$8 for children 10 and over. More details will follow soon!





There's a place for you!

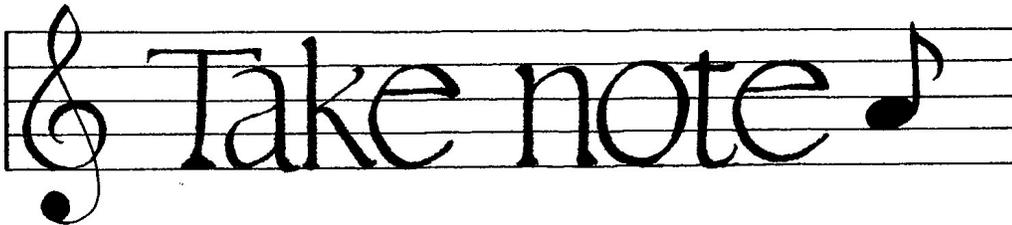
Women's Bible Study

In May, the Women's Bible Study will meet the first and last Tuesday of the month: **May 1 and May 29**. We will begin studying the book of Mark. *All women are invited and do not need to be members of St. Mark's to attend.* Please see Diane Meier for more information.



Lunch Crew

The Lunch Crew will meet **May 21 at 12:00 pm** at Friendship Grill at 834 Tutor Lane. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your church family outside of the church walls. Join us for good food and great fellowship. All are welcome!



Thank you choir for all your hard work! We will be taking a summer break soon! Our last practice of the season will be May 17th, from 6-7 in the sanctuary; our last Sunday to sing is Pentecost, May 20th. We will begin anew in August (date to be determined).

Take a look and see who's in the choir: **Soprano:** Mackenzie Bryant, Natalie Clark, Kimberly Grimm, Jessica Higgins, Judy Mehne, Mary Margaret Thomson, Stephanie West; **Alto:** Marilee Johnson, Wanda Kroedel, Lynn Wahoski; **Tenor:** Gary Briesch, Lavon Niehaus, Tom Wahoski; **Bass:** Greg Bryant (also congas), Larry Kroedel

We would like to sing anthems, but in order to do so, we need more choir members to ensure that all 4 parts are covered. Please prayerfully consider joining us when we resume in August.

I am looking for vocalists and instrumentalists to enhance our summer worship services in the absence of the choir. Please see me or email: debordner@yahoo.com if you would like to serve.

Musically in Christ,

Deb Ordner



We Remember In Our Prayers

Betty Lane,
Autumn Sinnott,
the family of Eve
Corlew,
the family of Dorothy
Thomson Lansdown,
the family of Bonnie Mix,
Carla Acton,
Bryce Pitlick,

Tracy Roller,
Andrea Radpke,
Lee Pitlick,
John Williams,
Terry Lampton,
Jesse Cancel,
David Mehne,
Jim Hoffman & family,
Skip Herrera & family,

Thelma Brown,
Arlene Sellers,
Sharon Bieber,
Sharon Cota,
Michael Lawson,
Mary Lou Thayer,
Ken & Jan Heugel,
& Dolores Zahm



Let Us Pray...

Heavenly Father,

This world has heard the gospel message through the witness of generations who lived, shared and breathed your word. We are here today because our hearts were strangely warmed by such an encounter, and we believed, as many did before, that in Christ and Christ alone is our salvation. For the Gospel message and faithful witness, we praise your name.

Amen.

—Birch, John. The Act of Prayer: Praying through the Lectionary, Bible Reading Fellowship.

Please Remember Our Shut-Ins and Homebound Members

Arthur Aarstad—*Newburgh Healthcare*
Norma Cobb—*Home*
Jan Heugel—*Protestant Home*
Ken Heugel—*Protestant Home*
Dottie Peteritas—*Oasis Dementia Care*
Dolores Zahm—*Protestant Home*



May Ministry Schedule

	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27
Altar Guild	J— Karen Browning T— Sue Stuckemeyer & Linda Larsen			
Usher	Tom Pfender & Jim Weitzel	Eugene & Barbara Hamlow	Dan & Lynn Mowrey	John & Janet Voyles
Greeter	J— Terry & Debbie Garoutte T— Bob & Gayle Carter	J— Lee & Judy Hodoval T— Eugene & Barbara Hamlow	J— Mary Lee Johnson & Pat Powers T— Dan & Lynn Mowrey	J— KewBee McDonald & Diane Meier T— John & Janet Voyles
Communion Assistant	J— T—	J— T—	J— T—	J— T—
Nursery Attendant	J— Diane Hawkins T—	J— Margaret Boyles T—	J— Maria Dennis T—	J— Julie Weyer T— Christy Ferley
Lector				
Acolyte	Isabella Nelson	Mackenzie Bryant	Isabella Nelson	Mackenzie Bryant
Assisting Minister	Larry Gajderowicz	Karen Dunlap	Mark Zeller	Sherri Zeller
Coffee Hour	Chases	Birthday Sunday Larsen	Garoutte & Weyer	Myers & Sellers
Kids' Church	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray
Media Ministry	J— Mark Myrick & Mary Klotz T— Andrew Nelson & Carol Courter			
		T— Mike Myers & Carol Courter	T— Andrew Nelson & Carol Courter	T— Mike Myers & Carol Courter



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2300 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47714



Please join us for worship each Sunday
9 am Contemporary Service, 11 am Traditional Service
10 am Coffee Hour/Sunday School