



Please visit our webpage at tlcjenera.org

Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Please visit our synod's webpage at www.wels.net

Or better yet visit us in person.

We would love to have you worship with us.

Easter is Reason to Celebrate!

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **John 14:19**

"Because I live, you also will live."

"Happy Holidays!" Does this sound out of place in April? It doesn't have to. This month marks, arguably, the most important holiday of the year—Easter. Why? Because at Easter we celebrate that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. This miraculous event is certainly a reason for celebration. It proves that Jesus has power over even death.

And, what's more, he promises that he has power over *your* death. You may not be thinking about death at Eastertime. You may not like to think about death at all. (Who does?) Still, we are all facing that reality. Sooner or later, our lives will end.

Then what? Plenty of people have plenty of ideas about what happens after we die. But there is one person who can tell us with certainty what will happen because he has already been there and done that. Jesus experienced death...*and came back to life!* Now, listen to what he promises all of his followers, "Because I live, you also will live."

Could there be any better news? Could there be anything more worth celebrating? Through Jesus, you do not need to be afraid to die. You can be sure that one day he will raise your body back to life. And you will never die again.

What a reason to celebrate!



Lost and Found



"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

April
2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE INVISIBLE FRIEND

Health officials are not only concerned about the physical, even fatal, effects of the coronavirus, but also the mental and emotional. The coronavirus is an invisible enemy. It's hard to fight an invisible enemy. It's more frightening to fight an enemy that you can't see. Mental health officials urge US citizens to take steps to counter the mental and emotional effects that all the "social distancing" and staying at home and not going to work and school may bring about.

On morning the Prophet Elisha and the people of his city woke up to an enemy they could see. This enemy, an army of soldiers from Aram (modern Syria; capitol: Damascus) had surrounded the city and was poised to destroy it. Elisha said: "Don't be afraid...Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." The Lord enabled Elisha's servant's eyes to be "opened" so that "he looked and saw the hills full of the horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." It was the protection of the Lord God all around Elisha and the people in his city. The Lord struck the enemy soldiers with blindness. The people of Elisha's town easily led the blinded enemy soldiers away to the Israelite authorities. (2 Kings 6:8-23)

We face an invisible, hard-to-fight enemy in the coronavirus, but we have an invisible, almighty Friend. He is more powerful than any disease or enemy. He doesn't just protect us from a physical sickness. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to defeat sin and Satan and death and hell for us undeserving sinners to give us eternal life and the "cure" we need the most. Let the eyes of our faith be opened to see this Friend and to find peace and calm through trust in Him. While we may have to endure "social distancing" from others during this coronavirus pandemic, our Lord, our Friend, is always near.

Pastor Alois Schmitzer III

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Something to think about...

"Misfortune tests the sincerity of friends."
(Aesop)

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

At the March 16 Trinity Church Council meeting the Outreach Committee announced the cancelation of the Easter For Kids program that had been slated for April 4. The Outreach Committee has started advertising at the Bluffton movie theater.

Church Cleaning, originally scheduled for March 29-31, has been postponed to a yet-unchosen time. Six Luther Society boys are planning to attend the WELS International Youth Rally in KY this summer. The Elders recommended and the Council passed the motion to release from church membership Jason Deeds and Demra Schmehl. The Elders presented a time and duties chart to help in deciding whether to call a second pastor after Pastor Schmitzer retires. The proposal was tabled until next month.

The Trustees planned the Cemetery Cleaning Day for Saturday, April 11, at 10:00AM, right after the Council sets up for Easter Breakfast. The council approved the School Board's recommendation that the Mornings With Mommy fall under the School Board/Board of Education's oversight. Plans are being made to upgrade the classrooms for the placement of the Pre-School and Kindergarden. The school play, planned for the week after Easter, has been canceled. As of the council meeting, there were 13 Pre-School applications in for the Tuesday/Thursday classes and 6 applications in for the Monday/Wednesday/Friday all day classes. With all schools being closed, the teachers are working with the students to do classwork at home. TLS will remain closed until April 13, which was the normal end of the Easter break. Reevaluation for the resumption of in-school classwork will then be made.

The Church Council voted to cancel all church activities through April 1. The pastors will record an abbreviated church service to be viewed online. Pastors were to have the Undershepherds contacts their group members to inform them of this decision and offer their help. The Church Council will meet in a special session on Monday, March 30, to reevaluate the situation caused by the coronavirus epidemic.

Coronavirus update March 18th, 2020

God encouraged the New Testament believers, **"Let's us not give up meeting together..., but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day (of the Lord) approaching (Hebrews 10:25)."**

When we meet together as a church that is my prayer to God that you receive encouragement. Whether in our worship, our fellowship events, or our meetings, I pray that you would be encouraged with God's Word and the body of believers that he has given us. This past weekend, when we had services, a person told me that they were glad that we could hear God's Word, sing some favorite hymns, and be encouraged by her brothers and sisters in Christ. At a time with chaos and uncertainty, we need that encouragement from God's Word. Not only do we receive encouragement from God's Word, but also from our brothers and sisters in Christ recounting God's many blessings from previous dreary days.

That's what makes it difficult to say that we will not be meeting together for at least the next two weeks. We will not meet for worship services, Bible study, Sunday school, choir practice, fellowship events, or even to clean the church as we had planned. The church council out of concern for the health and well-being of our members and guests have cancelled all church activities through April 4th. We took seriously what our national, state, and local officials had advised about the coronavirus. So for the safety of all people who would come to any activity, we canceled them. The church council will continue to stay informed about the ongoing situation with the coronavirus. If needed, we will extend this cancellation.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Just because we are not meeting together as brothers and sisters in worship or fellowship, it does not mean that we have stopped being a church. We, Pastor Schmitzer and Pastor Nowak, are still willing to help you spiritually at this time. We still plan to record a brief Sunday service that we will post on our website at www.tlcienera.org. If this should continue, we will post updates there. If you know of people who do not have internet connection, let us know and we can mail or deliver DVDs of that service to them.

Although we may not meet throughout the week, we still are a church. Pray for God's help for all people in this trying time. Never stop bringing your requests to God for all our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere. Stay in touch with people in the congregation. With the extra time that you may have on hand, call people to keep encouraging them as we walk through this together. If you need pastoral assistance at this time, call us, the pastors. We would love to hear from you. If you can't get a hold of the pastors, call the leader of your undershepherd group. If you don't know who that is, please call either our office, 419-326-4685, or call Pastor Nowak at 419-302-5271.

We also realize that uncertainty spiritually and financially run rampant right now. So don't be afraid to call for spiritual care, but also if you are in need of anything. God told us how the early Christian church helped each other (Acts 4:34-35). If you are need of anything or if you are able to help, call or email us, so that we facilitate help as needed.

As we have talked to some people, they have asked the question, "If I wanted to give my offering to the church, how would I do that now that we are not meeting?" We have three ways to do that. You can mail it, you can deliver it to the school office, or you can make use of our online donation. You can mail it to either school or church address, located at the bottom of this letter. You can also deliver it to the school office Monday through Friday, from 9:00AM to noon. If you can't come during those hours, other arrangements can be made. Either our church secretary or a teacher will be at school during these hours. While school may not actually meet at the school, our teachers still have office hours, so that they can answer any questions from parents or students. Finally, you can also donate using the "Online Giving" link on the home page of the website.

As we weather the storm caused by the coronavirus, we know that God will bring us through this. Keep your eyes open to the hidden blessings that come through this. We have more time to spend with our families, more time to catch up on projects around home, more time to encourage our own brothers and sisters, mother and father, or sons and daughters. Look out for those blessings and thank God for them.

While we may not physically meet together at Jesus' feet, we still get to receive encouragement as we see our Savior march to the cross to face down sin, sickness, and death. He conquered them all for us, so that we don't need to fear them. Yes, sickness may harm us and impair us in this life, but it cannot take away the glorious body that God has promised us, when we rise again. God be with you until we meet again.

In Christ,

Pastor Nowak and Pastor Schmitzer

STEWARDSHIP

Drip. Drip. Drip. At first, the dripping may not seem like a big deal. We can tune it out. But after days or even weeks, many questions can go through our head. Why is something dripping? Is it a leak? Is it condensation? Is it a hole? Drip. Drip. Drip.

Negative news can have the same effect on the soul. Drip. A virus is going around. Drip. It could be deadly. Drip. It could cause the markets to weaken. Drip. Or even crash. Drip. It could turn the world upside down. Drip. By now you might have questions. Is it temporary? Will it last longer? How will the world be different? Will I recognize it after this is done?

The dripping of hopelessness, the uncertainty of the future, and the despair of the world around us can wear on our soul and drag us down. However, we celebrate this month the reason we have hope. We hear the antidote for hopelessness. We hear about the resurrection. In fact Jesus in his Holy Week sermons called us "children of the resurrection." By his death and resurrection, he has guaranteed us our resurrection. The hope of the resurrection gives us a waterproof coating from the dripping of the hopelessness in our times.

Now we live as children of the resurrection. We show that hope in our conversations, in our talk, and in our digital communications. We live it in our interactions with those around us. We can live free from fear and hopelessness, because Jesus has given us hope. While we may not know what our immediate future may hold for us, we know and hope in the ultimate future of the resurrection from the dead. Hear God's hope and live it, Children of the Resurrection.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Nowak

Important numbers and information:

Pastor Schmitzer's number: 419-365-1350 Email: bschmitzer@juno.com

Pastor Nowak's number: 419-302-5271 Email: pastormattn@gmail.com

Trinity Lutheran Office: 419-326-4685 Email: tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org 9 to noon Monday– Friday

Church address: 301 N. Main St. Jenera, OH 45841

School address: 105 Allen St. Jenera, OH 45841

GREETERS FOR APRIL (TENTATIVE)

<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Late Service</u>
12 Tom & Becky Smith	Bob & Julie Inniger
19 Ruth Schmitzer	Gary & Becky Mitchell
26 Barb Roidt & Ruth Marquart	Mark & Jane Boehm

NEXT MONTH

SCHOOL CALENDAR

6-10	Easter Break – No School
13	Easter Break – No School

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Leah Nowak
2	John Spaeth
6	Sally Rettig
11	Pastor Alois Schmitzer
16	Karen Beach
27	Ruth Marquart
27	Shelby Armand
30	Mary Lou Reddick
30	Megan Nowak

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

9	Mike & Jill Woodward
18	Darl & Pam Deeds
22	Ray & Dawn Curth
24	Gary & Rebecca Mitchell

*If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary and would like it added, call the office at 419-326-4685.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Schmitzer: bschmitzer@juno.com
 Pastor Nowak: pastormattn@gmail.com
 Church: tlc.jenera@gmail.com
 School: tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org
 Webpage: tlcjenera.org

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Jenera, OH 45841

Pastor Schmitzer: 419-326-4402

Pastor Nowak: 419-302-5271

School: 419-326-4685

Church: tlc.jenera@gmail.com

School: tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class 9:20 AM



We're on the Web!
tlcjenera.org

April
2020

Return address requested.

Memory Gem from God's Treasure

(for parents, children—everyone young and old!)

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth.'"

(Genesis 2:26)

**PROVERBS OF
SOLOMON**

Have you read the book
of Proverbs lately?

You will find
God-breathed wisdom
from the wisest man
who ever lived.

"When a man's ways
are pleasing to the
Lord, he makes even
his enemies live at
peace with him."

(16:7)