

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

The monthly newsletter for  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Loogootee, IN

## LIFE TOGETHER

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY FLEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Good Friday afternoon the crucified Jesus died and gave up his spirit to the Father (John 19:30). His body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in burial cloth and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. There his body lay until the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. Our faith tradition tells us in a way that is beyond our understanding that as the body of Jesus lay in the tomb his soul, now separated from his body which is the definition of death, entered the realm of the dead. This is what we confess in the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed: He was crucified, dead and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day he rose again. How are we to think about Jesus descending into Hell?

Other passages of scripture give us more to meditate on. St. Matthew records that upon the death of Jesus tombs were opened and many saints appeared to the living in Jerusalem (Matthew 27: 52-53). St. Peter tells us Jesus died and in his spirit preached to the spirits in prison

*(continued on page 2)*

### Table of Contents

<b>Life Together</b>	<b>- 1</b>
<b>Prayer Concerns</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Dietrich Bonhoeffer</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>St. Mark Feast Day</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>Anselm of Canterbury</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>Cranach and Durer, artists</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>J. Bugenhagen, Pastor</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>J. Walter, Kantor</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	<b>- 5</b>
<b>Servers for the Month</b>	<b>- 5</b>
<b>Worship Service Times</b>	<b>- 5</b>
<b>The Church Mouse</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>a little lutheran levity</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Holy Week Services</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Church Council Minutes</b>	<b>- 7</b>
<b>Stewardship Report</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>Special Birthdays</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>Opportunities for Ministry</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b>- 9</b>
<b>Celebrations</b>	<b>- 9</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>- 10</b>

*(Life Together, continued from page 1)*

who did not obey God in the time of Noah (I Peter 3: 18-20). What is going on?

Let's begin with Hell. This is not the most accurate word to be used in this case. Hell is a word traditionally used to translate a few different words in Hebrew and Greek. In the Old Testament, when someone died their soul entered Sheol or the realm of the dead. There it was thought to await the time of the resurrection for those branches of Judaism which believed in the resurrection. In Greek the word Hades best corresponds to this. Hades, like Sheol, was a shadowy, ghost-like place or mode of existence for the dead. These places are not usually what we think of when we hear the word Hell. Hell is the place of final separation from God. There are words in the Old Testament and the New which better correspond to this understanding of Hell. These would be Gehenna which appears in both the Old Testament and the New as well as Tartarus in the New Testament. These are the places of the damned or those fully and eternally separated from God. A better wording for the Apostles' Creed would be Jesus descended to the dead.

On Good Friday evening and Holy Saturday Jesus descended into Sheol, Hades, the realm of the dead and upon his resurrection released from this shadowy place all the Old Testament saints who were awaiting the Messiah. They were freed to enter God's presence more completely. This is what St. Matthew is referring to. He also made known to the evil spirits of Hell that they were defeated.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Prayer Concerns

**Please be praying for these friends and church family members.**

### **Those with health concerns:**

\*Brian Winingger (church member)  
 \*Bryan Adams (church member)  
 Chris Haag (brother to T. Haag, cousin to J. Love)  
 Dave Harder (friend of Linda Goldman)  
 David Welch (brother-in-law of Doug & Rita Denson)  
 Eva Carson (niece of Matthew & Madeline Fleace)  
 Helen Bauer (wife of Augie Bauer)  
 Jane Person (friend of Duane Mann)  
 Jaxson Winingger (church member)  
 Jim Leistner (friend of Goldman family)  
 Joan Haag (mother of Tony Haag)  
 Keith Greenwell (friend of Wanda Smith)  
 Ladema Welton (friend of Julinda Adams)  
 Lee Sipes (brother of Tammy Winingger)  
 Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)  
 Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)  
 Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)  
 \*Verneeda Roach (church member)

### **Those in the nursing home and homebound:**

\*Phyllis Lynch (Gentry Park Center, Bloomington)  
 \*Verneeda Roach (Ketcham Memorial Center, Odon)

### **Our College/Graduate Students:**

\*Alex Adams, Ivy Tech, Bloomington  
 \*Carson Shaw, University of Evansville  
 \*Isaac Eagle, University of Southern Indiana  
 \*Kenley Shaw, University of Southern Indiana  
 \*Olivia Harker, University of Southern Indiana

### **Our Military Personnel:**

\*Kody Neukam-Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

### **Other concerns:**

The spiritual state of our nation and churches  
 The leaders in our nation and world  
 Our church and leaders of our church  
 Our sister church in Dubois and leaders  
 Our own individual spiritual state  
 Those experiencing war, unrest, and persecution  
 Those who suffer depression & mental illness  
 Staff and students at our local schools

*\* denotes church member*

*(Life Together, continued from page 2)*

Death itself was powerless against him. This is what St. Peter described. Jesus entered death as the Lord and giver of life. His resurrection on Easter marked the beginning of the full resurrection which will take place at the end of time when all those who die in Christ will reign with him forever. Easter is the great and true Exodus from death to eternal life with God.

In Christ,  
Pr. Fleace



### **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Theologian Commemoration Day April 9**

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who, at the age of twenty-five, became a lecturer in systematic theology at the University of Berlin. In 1933, and with Hitler's rise to power, Bonhoeffer became a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, a resistance movement against the Nazis. He was arrested in 1943. He was linked to a failed attempt on Hitler's life and sent to Buchenwald, then to Schonberg prison. After leading a worship service on April 8, 1945, at Schonberg prison, he was taken away to be hanged the next day. His last words as he left were, "This is the end, but for me the beginning of life."

This commemoration day is from *Keeping Time, The Church's Years*, Augsburg Fortress Publishing House, 2009.



### **St. Mark, the Evangelist Feast Day April 25**

St. Mark was the author of the second Gospel, which he composed, according to some Early Church Fathers, when the Christians in Rome asked him to write down the preaching of the apostle Peter. Mark, also known as John Mark, was originally from Jerusalem, where the house of his mother Mary was the center of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:12). He was brought from Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to Antioch and it was from this city that they set out on the first missionary journey. When Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them again, but Paul objected because Mark had left them during the first journey. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas as his new companion (Acts 15). Later, Paul reconciled with Mark and was working with him again. Finally Mark was found laboring with Peter in Rome (I Peter 5:13). Tradition says that Mark was instrumental in founding the Church in Alexandria, becoming its first bishop, and that he suffered a martyr's death.

**The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.**

**He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'**

**Matthew 28:5-7**

## **Anselm of Canterbury** **Commemoration Day April 21**

"Born in Italy in 1033, Anselm is most closely associated with England, where he served as archbishop of Canterbury for many years. A brilliant scholar and writer, Anselm used his political skills with the British kings on behalf of the established Christian Church, affirming that it is the leadership of the Church, not the state, that is responsible for establishing structure and maintaining order among the clergy. Anselm is especially remembered for his classic book, *Why God Became Man*, which taught that the reason for the incarnation was that Jesus, the Son of God, would suffer and die in place of sinners."



## **Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Durer** **Commemoration Day April 6**

"Lucas Cranach (1472-1557), a close friend of Martin Luther, was a celebrated painter of portraits and altarpieces and a producer of woodcuts of religious subjects. Albrecht Durer (1471-1528), a native of Nurnberg, Germany, was one of the most learned of Renaissance artists and an ardent admirer of Martin Luther. His paintings and woodcuts include examples of the splendor of creation and skilled portrayals of biblical narratives. Both Cranach and Durer are remembered and honored for the grandeur of their works of art, which depict the glory and majesty and grace and mercy of the triune God."

## **Pastor Johannes Bugenhagen** **Commemoration Day April 20**

"Johannes Bugenhagen, born in 1485 from Pomerania in northern Germany, was appointed pastor of Wittenberg in 1523 through the efforts of Martin Luther. Thus, he served as Luther's own pastor and confessor. One of the greatest scholars of the Reformation era, Bugenhagen helped translate the New Testament into Low German and wrote a commentary on the Psalms. He also worked to organize the Lutheran Church in northern Germany and Denmark. In 1539, Bugenhagen became superintendent of the Church in Saxony. After the death of Luther, Bugenhagen took care of Luther's widow and children. Bugenhagen died in Wittenberg in 1558."



## **Johann Walter, Kantor** **Commemoration Day April 24**

"Johann Walter (1496-1570) began service at the age of twenty-one as a composer and bass singer in the court chapel of Frederick the Wise. In 1524, Walter published a collection of hymns arranged according to the Church Year. It was well received and served as the model for numerous subsequent hymnals. In addition to serving for thirty years as Kantor (church musician) in the German cities of Torgan and Dresden, he also assisted Martin Luther in the preparation of the Deutsche Messe, or "German Mass" (1526). Walter is remembered as the first Lutheran kantor and composer of church music."

## Lectionary Readings for March

Please find below the daily lectionary readings for this month. Reading the Bible every day will increase your spiritual health in the same way that exercise helps you physically to stay well. We encourage you to make time in your day for the care of your soul.

- 1 Exodus 10:21-11:10; Hebrews 4:1-16
- 2 Exodus 12:1-28; Hebrews 5:1-14
- 3 Exodus 12:29-32, 13:1-16; Hebrews 6:1-20
- 4 Exodus 13:17-14:9; Hebrews 7:1-22
- 5 Exodus 14:10-31; Hebrews 7:23-8:13
- 6 Exodus 15:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-28
- 7 Exodus 15:19-16:12; Hebrews 10:1-18
- 8 Exodus 16:13-35; Hebrews 10:19-39
- 9 Exodus 17:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-29
- 10 Exodus 18:5-27; Hebrews 12:1-24
- 11 Exodus 19:1-25; Hebrews 13:1-21
- 12 Exodus 20:1-24; Luke 4:1-15
- 13 Exodus 22:20-23:13; Luke 4:16-30
- 14 Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44
- 15 Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16
- 16 Exodus 25:1-22; Luke 5:17-39
- 17 Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19
- 18 Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38
- 19 Exodus 32:15-35; Luke 6:39-49
- 20 Exodus 33:1-23; Luke 7:1-17
- 21 Exodus 34:1-28; Luke 7:18-35
- 22 Exodus 34:29-35:21; Luke 7:36-50
- 23 Exodus 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31; Luke 8:1-21
- 24 Exodus 39:32-40:16; Luke 8:22-39
- 25 Exodus 40:17-38; Luke 8:40-56
- 26 Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Luke 9:1-17
- 27 Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36
- 28 Leviticus 10:1-20; Luke 9:37-62
- 29 Leviticus 16:1-24; Luke 10:1-22
- 30 Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42

## Worship Service Times

January - April 2026 - 9 AM

May - August 2026 - 11 AM

September - December 2026 - 9 AM

## Servers for April

### 2 April Maundy Thursday

Lector/Communion Asst: **Leanne Love**

Acolyte: **Leanne Love**

Communion Helper: **Tammy Winger**

Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**

Nursery: **No nursery for this service**

Color: **Purple**

### 5 April Easter Sunday

Lector/Communion Asst: **Leanne Love**

Acolyte: **Leanne Love**

Communion Helper: **Tammy Winger**

Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**

Nursery: **No nursery for this service**

Color: **White**

### 12 April Easter 2

Lector/Communion Asst: **Sarah Adams**

Acolyte: **Sarah Adams**

Greeters: **Deron & Angie Steiner**

Nursery: **Tammy Winger**

Color: **White**

### 19 April Easter 3

Lector: **Tammy Winger**

Acolyte: **Tammy Winger**

Greeters: **Duane & Karen Mann**

Nursery: **Sarah Adams**

Color: **White**

### 26 March Easter 4

Lector: **Hannah Davis**

Acolyte: **Hannah Davis**

Greeters: **Bill & Karen Whorrall**

Nursery: **Barbara Prince**

Color: **White**

Financial Assistant: **Steiners**

Church Cleaning: **Steiners**

# The Church Mouse

It looks like the first part of April is pretty busy at the church. It is, after all, Easter! We are having Palm Sunday soon and then Maundy Thursday which is when Jesus had his last supper before being crucified on Good Friday. Then comes Holy Saturday and then...tada!!! EASTER!!!!!!!

You know I have always wondered why the day is called *Good Friday*. It doesn't seem like it was all that good for Jesus. Since he died and all. I wonder if he knew that he was going to be raised up? I guess it was a good day for us since that was the day that Jesus conquered death and forgave all our sins. I need to talk to Pastor Tim I guess.

## **a little lutheran levity!**

Knock, knock! *Who's there?*  
Ben. *Ben who?*  
Ben waiting for Easter to arrive!

Knock, knock! *Who's there?*  
Alma. *Alma who?*  
Alma Easter candy is gone!

Knock, knock! *Who's there?*  
Sherwood. *Sherwood who?*  
Sherwood like another chocolate bunny!

## **Holy Week Services**

### **@ Loogootee and Dubois**

- **Palm Sunday @ Loogootee**  
March 29 - 9:00 AM worship

- **Palm Sunday @ Dubois**  
March 29 - 11:00 AM worship

a service of celebration to honor Jesus' victorious entry into Jerusalem. Also known as Passion Sunday as it is the Sunday before Jesus is crucified.

- **Maundy Wednesday @ Dubois**  
April 1 - 6:30 PM worship
- **Maundy Thursday @ Loogootee**  
April 2 - 6:30 PM worship

this service commemorates the last supper of Jesus with his disciples where he initiates the Eucharist and washes the feet of his disciples.

- **Good Friday @ Loogootee**  
April 3 - 3:00 PM worship

- **Good Friday @ Dubois**  
April 3 - 6:30 PM worship

a solemn service to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

- **Easter Sunday @ Loogootee**  
April 5 - 9:00 AM worship
- **Easter Sunday @ Dubois**  
April 5 - 11:00 AM worship

a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus after being in the tomb for three days. He has forgiven our sin and has conquered death. He gives us the hope of new life!

## Highlights from St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 2026

The St. John's Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the church social room. Members present were Deron Steiner, Barbara Prince, Pastor Tim Fleace, Tammy Winger, Duane Mann, Karen Mann, and Angie Steiner.

Chairman Deron Steiner called the meeting to order. Pastor Tim led us in prayer. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as printed in the St. John's Journal, per a motion made by Tammy Winger, seconded by Karen Mann. The motion carried. Treasurer Duane Mann presented the financial report for February. As of February 28, 2026, the report shows an ending balance of \$41,529.15. Duane reported that finances are similar to those of previous months. Angie Steiner moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Tammy Winger. Motion carried.

Financial Trustee Report - Giving was steady through the last few months.

Property Trustee - vacant

Worship Deacon - Tammy and Pastor Tim discussed worship times and communion details for upcoming services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. She will order palm branches.

Youth Deacon - Barbara reported that we need to secure volunteers to oversee the nursery on Sunday mornings. She will continue to ask parishioners to help.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Tim combines activities for both churches in his report for December.

Twelve pastoral calls, attended two meetings, led three Bible study sessions  
one confirmation session, performed one funeral service and one baptism (both at Dubois)  
He led an Evansville conference retreat at St. Meinrad for Lent preparation.

Dubois had the Ash Wednesday service this year, and Loogootee had the Ash Thursday service.

We began the Lenten mid-week round robin services. Pastor Tim started at Dubois and will be going to Boone Township, St. Paul in Haysville, and Christ in Haysville. Loogootee will have the Maundy Thursday service this year, and Dubois will have Maundy Wednesday. The basement at the parsonage is now dry, and there is a temporary water line in place. The family appreciates the church relocating them to a hotel until the temporary water line is in place.

### OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of a "bat box" and/or modifications to the exterior cross is tabled until later this spring.

Barbara reported that the copiers in the office are using toner faster, and the cost of the toner is concerning. Duane and Deron received quotes from two area businesses. The council reviewed the quotes. Barbara Prince moved to proceed with a quote from Hoosier Business Machines in Jasper for a new copier. The motion was seconded by Duane Mann. Motion carried.

The City of Loogootee will be installing a separate meter and water line separate from the church to resolve the water issue at the parsonage. This work should be completed in the next week or so.

### NEW BUSINESS

Duane asked that we consider ordering items from Amazon rather than paying shipping to Augsburg and other vendors. The signage on the north side of the church was damaged during a recent storm. Duane will look into options for a new "frame" to protect the letters on the sign.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 21 - Winter banquet at 6:30pm

March 29 - Palm Sunday service at 9:00am

April 2 - Maundy Thursday service (Loogootee) at 6:30pm

April 3 - Good Friday service (Loogootee) at 3:00pm

April 5 - Easter Sunday service (Loogootee) at 9:00am

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by,

Angie Steiner, Council Secretary

## Budget Report for February 2026

<b>General Fund:</b>	Balance on 2/1/26	\$41,590.81
Total Receipts	\$10,026.88.....	\$51,617.69
Disbursements		
Salaries	\$3,341.68	
Worship	\$200.00	
Office	\$512.54	
Utilities	\$2,060.90	
Rep/Main	\$0.00	
Misc.	\$3,973.42	
Total Disbursements.....		\$10,088.54
	Balance on 2/28/26	\$41,529.15

### Special Funds:

Building Fund	\$26,393.43
Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,194.04
Synod Mission Support	\$600.00
Memorial Fund	\$9,286.99
Grace LC Legacy Gift	\$1,608.37

## Stewardship Report February 2026

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, February 01	24	\$2508.00*
Sunday, February 08	23	\$973.00
Sunday, February 15	23	\$720.00
Thursday, February 19	27	\$125.00
Sunday, February 22	27	\$1135.00

*Needed weekly to meet the budget \$1105.00*

*\*300 Mission Support, 500 World Hunger, 100 Freed to Lead*



This month we have two special birthdays to celebrate (members 80 years old and up). We hope you will help us "shower" Carla and Wanda with love by sending them birthday cards for their special days on the dates listed with their names:

**Carla Braun**  
**(April 14, 1937)**  
**PO Box 187**  
**Shoals, IN 47581**

**Wanda Smith**  
**(April 20, 1938)**  
**PO Box 32**  
**Loogootee, IN 47553**

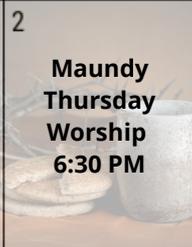
Contact the church office if you know someone who is not listed above. We don't want to miss anyone. Thank you!!

## *Opportunities for Ministry*

- **Cleaning and Financial Assistant** schedules are posted in the back hallway awaiting your signature. Please help where you can.
- **Nursery help is needed!** If you are able to help in the nursery once in a while, please let Barbara Prince know. Thank you!
- **Christ in Our Home** devotional booklets for April, May, and June are available in the basket in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home.
- **Linger Longer** is the fourth Sunday of each month, except for November and December. Please join us! We have September and October left waiting for someone to sign up. Please check your blue form. Thank you for your help!!

# April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <b>Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 PM</b> 	3 <b>Good Friday Worship 3 PM</b> 	4 <b>Easter flowers due at the church</b>
5 <b>The Divine Service 9 AM Easter Sunday</b> 	6 Commemoration Day for Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Durer, Artists	7	8	9	10	11
12 <b>The Divine Service 9 AM Easter 2</b>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <b>The Divine Service 9 AM Easter 3</b>	20 Commemoration Day for Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor	21 <b>St. John's Journal Items are due today. Thank you!</b> Commemoration Day for Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian	22	23	24 Commemoration Day for Johann Walter, Kantor	25 Feast Day for Saint Mark, Evangelist
26 <b>The Divine Service 9 AM Easter 4 Linger Longer</b>	27	28	29	30		



## Celebrations

1 Clayton Harker  
3 Duane Mann  
14 Carla Braun  
16 Lyla Hayden  
17 Barbara Prince

20 Wanda Smith  
Ezra Potts  
22 Conner Hayden  
23 Elias Potts  
24 Brenda Sergent  
25 Jim Duzan

## Church Council

Chairperson - Deron Steiner

Secretary - Angie Steiner

Treasurer - Duane Mann

Financial Trustee - Karen Mann

Property Trustee - vacant

Worship Deacon - Tammy Wininger

Youth Deacon - Barbara Prince

## Contact Information

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<https://loogooteelutheran.org>

**Church Secretary**  
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