

# Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
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April 2018

*"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said"* (Matthew 28:6). This announcement by the angel that first Easter morning was some of the most important words ever spoken in all history.

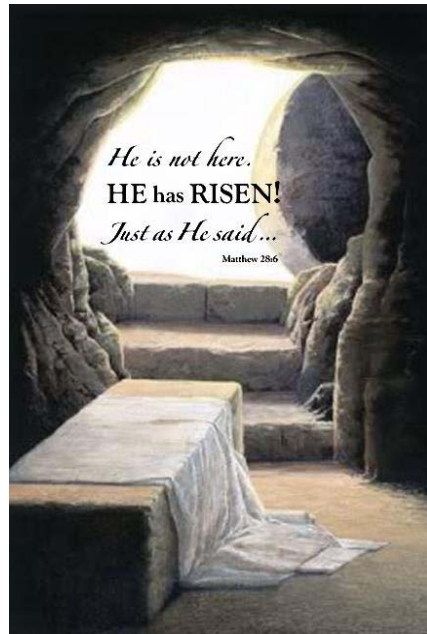
The women who heard these words had come to Jesus' tomb with heavy hearts, mourning deeply over His death. After all of Jesus' teaching and preaching, His miracles, and His fellowship – now He had been crucified and laid in a grave. But their mourning was more than just sadness over the loss of a loved one. Jesus' death seemed to mean that all the hopes He had held out to them for time and eternity had come to nothing. They had placed their faith in His salvation... Now what?

I imagine the sentiments in their hearts were something like those of the disciples who walked along the road to Emmaus, later that same day. As Jesus came and walked beside them, His identity was hidden from their eyes. With downcast faces, the disciples related all that had happened to Jesus: *"The chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel"* (Luke 24:20-21)... Now what?

Deep mourning, disappointment, hopelessness. Such words would describe our lives, too, if Jesus were just a dead man. The apostle Paul paints the would-be picture: *"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.... If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable"* (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-19).

But *"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."* That changes everything. Jesus' resurrection shows that all His claims are true. He really is the only begotten Son of God from eternity. He is the Lord of life, whom death cannot hold in the grave.

And He really did win our salvation; for He *"was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification"* (Romans 4:25). In raising His Son to life, God powerfully declares us justified – not guilty but forgiven. God also saved us from Satan and his kingdom, as *"He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them"* (Colossians 2:15) in Christ's cross and empty tomb.



Therefore, though we face physical death, we need not sorrow as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). *"Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1 Corinthians 15:20). His resurrection to glory really does prove that He will raise up all who believe in Him to share in His heavenly glory.

What a joy it was for those first disciples to see Jesus alive, to hear His comforting voice, to touch the nail marks in the hands and feet of Him who had so powerfully won their salvation! At Easter, and every day, we rejoice with those disciples, and we join the angel in announcing the good news of our Savior: *"He is risen"; He is risen indeed!* *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* (1 Peter 1:3).

In Easter joy!  
Pastor Smith



This year, Easter falls on April First. On Easter Day, Christians all over the world gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. But April Fool's Day, by common usage, is a day for pranks.

Nobody likes to play the fool. But for a moment, coming up on an April First Easter, let's embrace the question: *Who's the fool?* Is it the Jews that conspired against Jesus to kill Him? Is it the Romans who were used by them to put Him to death? Is it Jesus Himself? Is it those who have believed in Him? *Who's the fool?*

The Apostle Paul, for one, isn't afraid of the question. He says openly: **If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we**

**are of all people most to be pitied.** (1 Cor 15:19 ESV) Yet, along with all the disciples and eyewitnesses of the resurrection, Paul never changed his tune. In fact, they all live and die as martyrs for their testimony about Jesus, His death at the cross, and His resurrection from the dead.

**For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.** (1 Cor 1:21 ESV)

The world through its wisdom improves, and yet heaven on earth never gets any closer. The world through inclusiveness becomes more intolerant and rejects decency and charity. **He catches the wise in their craftiness.** (1 Cor. 3:19 ESV) The world by wisdom refuses to know God, the Creator. So He made Himself small. He made Himself least and worst of all. He placed Himself under the condemnation of all.

He took up our folly and shame. He made Himself an easy prey for an unseen enemy who couldn't resist falling on Him in such a state of foolishness and weakness. **And you, who were dead in your trespasses... God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses... (He cancelled) the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities (the devil and all his rebellious spirits) and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.** (Colossians 2:13-15 ESV)

In light of His vacant tomb—for He is Risen!—how blessed we are to be called to share in His divine foolishness! **For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.** (1 Cor 1.18 ESV)

Wishing you a blessed celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

*(A newsletter of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach.)*





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## Welcome on Easter Sunday ~ April 1<sup>st</sup>

Easter Service ~ 8:30 a.m.

Easter Brunch ~ 9:30 a.m.

# April 2018 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
<p><b>1</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i></p>  <p><b>Easter Service</b> 8:30 AM</p> <p><b>Easter Brunch</b> 9:30 AM</p> <p><b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Eric Anderson</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Maria Smith</i></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Youth Catechism</b> 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Jesus Cares Ministry</b> 2:00 PM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>			
<p><b>8</b> <i>Easter 2</i></p> <p><b>Worship with Communion</b> 9:30 AM</p> <p><b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM</p> <p><b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>West Coast Pastors Conference (April 11-12)</b>  <b>Emmaus Conference (For all – April 13)</b>  <b>Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA</b></p> </div>			<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> <i>Easter 3</i></p> <p><b>Worship</b> 9:30 AM</p> <p><b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM</p> <p><b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Council Meeting</b> 5:00 PM</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Youth Catechism</b> 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>CLWMS Meeting</b> 3:30 PM</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>			
<p><b>22</b> <i>Easter 4</i></p> <p><b>Worship with Communion</b> 9:30 AM</p> <p><b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM</p> <p><b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Youth Catechism</b> 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>			
<p><b>29</b> <i>Easter 5</i></p> <p><b>Worship</b> 9:30 AM</p> <p><b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM</p> <p><b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-style: italic;">“Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20)</p>							

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