

**Sunday, April 12, 2020**  
**Resurrection of Our Lord**  
**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - Speedway, Indiana**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**  
*Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!*

On Easter Sundays these are the words we use to greet one another in fellowship and in worship. This year, while so many other things have changed, this greeting and the truth of our Christian faith, remain the same. *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!*

This Easter devotion is a quieter worship than we experience on most Easter Sundays. You will be your own Altar Guild and are invited to prepare a candle and bowl of water to give thanks for our baptism. The hymns are not the ones we've waited all year to sing. We are saving those for the day when we will again gather in the sanctuary, ready to shout our *Alleluias*, and together hear the Word and celebrate the Meal.

But today we will sing "The Easter Celebration" new, poignant verses written just for this day and set to a familiar melody. They beautifully express the Easter Sunday in which we find ourselves today. Our worship closes with a hymn from the Taizé Community in France. It may be new to you. This is a good day to try something new! It repeats several times. Join in as the melody takes hold in you. And take the message of the words to heart: "Be Not Afraid."

Join us in celebration online via Zoom at 10am this morning. Bring along your favorite morning beverage and food as take a moment to be together as a community. You can see full directions in the email sent out on Wednesday. We will meet again on Zoom next Sunday. Please stay tuned for more information regarding this!

May this day, as different as it is, be a blessing to you. Because nothing changes the truth that *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!*

Blessings to you all,  
Deacon Marilyn

## Introduction

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, hear the sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. With joy we proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

You are invited to light a candle and to prepare a small bowl of water.

## Prelude “This Easter Celebration”

### This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.  
2. No gath - ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban - ners lead the way.  
3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd - ed room  
4. In all the grief and suf - fer - ing, may we re - mem - ber well:  
5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.  
O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?  
but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.  
Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.  
a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis - tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.  
With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place  
Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—  
Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!  
In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.  
we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.  
who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.  
Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.  
we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

You may dip your finger in the water and trace the sign of the cross on your forehead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for this water that recalls our baptism, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Word

#### First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

34Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

#### Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

**2**Let Israel now declare,

**“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

14The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

**15**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

**“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

16The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

**17**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.

18The Lord indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

**19**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

20“*This is the gate of the Lord;  
here the righteous may enter.*”

**21**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.

22The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**23**By the Lord has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

24This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### **Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

1If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

## **Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10**

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: *Jesus is risen!*

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then 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.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

### **Meditation**

Nearly every year there is a story that makes the rounds among preachers. The story may or may not have happened. Who knows? Here’s the story:

It seems that the preacher giving the children's sermon on an Easter Sunday launched into a really good and age-appropriate re-telling of the day of Jesus’ resurrection. The preacher emphasized all the elements of a story that were sure to grab the attention of children:

- two brave women
- an earthquake
- an angle with supernatural strength
- a tomb blocked by a large stone
- Roman guards who were so badly shaken up that they acted as if they were dead even though they were alive
- and Jesus, thought to be dead, but then seen to be alive

Caught up in the moment, the preacher proclaimed "And Jesus was not in the tomb! Jesus had come back to life! " To which one of the children observed a little quizzically, "But, wait. Didn't he do that last year?"

Sometimes children are our best theologians. They don’t always know the facts of the story, but they often know the truth of the story. Yes, Jesus was raised last year, and the year before that and every year reaching back to the first day of the week after Jesus’ crucifixion. And that’s at the heart of our faith: *Jesus is risen.*

If the resurrection of Jesus was simply a event frozen in time, it wouldn't be any different than the observance of the birth or death of any important historical figure: something that should be noted; but remembering those events, or not, doesn't make all that much difference in the lives of people. But, Christians don't simply remember or recall the resurrection of Jesus because it happened on one day, we believe that the Resurrection never ceases to be real and to happen each and every day. The events of Easter make a difference in the living of our days. Here. Now.

It's why our Easter Sunday proclamation is not "He rose!" That's past tense. It happened. It's done.

Instead, Christians shout "He is risen!" It's past tense. But in an active voice. It's something that keeps happening.

Claiming our faith in a risen Lord means that we believe that death is not the final outcome of life. Believing in a risen Lord means that, like the two Marys on that first Easter, we are not overcome with the fear that immobilized the guards. It means that the fears that we do face are merged with "great joy." And the words of Jesus, who is the Risen Lord, and who said, "Do not be afraid" will be the hope to which we cling.

But, let's be real. These are fearful times. How can we not be afraid? In the past weeks that are now turning into months, we confront fear at every turn. Everyone's life has been turned upside down. We certainly have more sympathy for the disciples who were too afraid to venture outside to visit the tomb. And so many people fear for loved ones and the havoc this is wrecking on us all. And then there is life apart from the pandemic. Many of you have fears for your own health or those close to you - waiting for test results, dealing with treatments, navigating the system and dreading the costs. All these and so much more make it seem impossible to "fear not" as the angels of the Lord are constantly telling those in the story of the history of God's people. And now we hear those words again, spoken to the Marys at the opening of the empty tomb: Do not be afraid.

The Resurrection of Jesus doesn't mean that any of our fears will cease. I'm pretty sure the Marys still experienced fear.

But in today's Gospel lesson we see the contrast between the guards at the tomb, who were also afraid and the two Marys. They all experienced the same things: the earthquake, the angel, the stone that was rolled back and the tomb that was empty.

But, the guards did not know Jesus. They had not heard Jesus teach about the kingdom of God being like a light that overcomes darkness; or like a father who throws a party for a son who squandered his inheritance, or like a woman who gives all she has to provide for the care of others. If the guards had heard it, they did not believe it. And, so, their fear overtook them and rendered them into a death-like state.

But the Marys! The Marys had heard and believed what Jesus had taught them. Despite the turbulent political and dangerous military times in which they lived; despite the ruptured relationships in the group of disciples - remember Judas and Peter had both betrayed Jesus; despite all that and who knows what else was rocking the foundations of their lives, the Marys were not overcome by their fears. Seeing that the tomb was empty, they took their fear and wrapped it up their great joy in the new hope that the resurrection offered. The Marys, unlike the guards, knew for certain that death does not have the last word and that Jesus called them to lives of hope, not fear.

Today is Easter, but for Christians everyday is Easter. Be like the Marys on that first Easter. Do not let your fears overtake you. Do not let threats of the world rob you of the peace that passes all understanding. Do not assume that a troubled relationship cannot be rekindled. Do not allow fear of dying keep you from living. Jesus died and now lives again and invites you to join him on the journey. You have been given courage to leave the tomb not only with fear, but also with great joy.

Because Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Amen.

## **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

*Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

*A brief silence.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence: Vicki Alleman, David friend of Ed & Bev, Christine Claprodt, Patrick Frepan, Jeannie Hermerding, Keith Johnson, Katie Hollman, John Racek, Jan Smith, David Tryon, Janet Walsh, Tim Walter, Denise Hollman, Pat Tumey, Ron

Wojtowicz, Jerid Edwards, Ruth Tingle, Thelma Jones, Penny Kalk, Martha Lawson, Norma Petraits, David Royer, Daivd Schmalz, Bob White, and all residents of the Harrison. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who protect and care for communties: first responders, military service members, medical care workers, and essential personnel. May they be strengthen to rise to the challenges they face in this time of pandemic. And may those of they serve be every mindful of the blessing that they are to us and to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died and whom we grieve. Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Through whatever means and with whatever resources you are providing gifts to further the mission and ministry of the gospel, they are brought before the Lord for blessing as we offer this prayer.*

### Offering Prayer

**Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. In the strength of the risen Christ. Amen**

### Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Postlude

#### Be Not Afraid

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community  
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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## Families on the Prayer List

Ms. Amanda Hunter  
Mrs. Rosemary Jones

Mrs. Susan Hahn Johnson  
Mrs. Thelma Jones

## Additional Prayers for Recent, Current, or Upcoming Medical Care:

Vicki Alleman, daughter of Bonnie Parker  
Christine Claprodt, daughter of Norma Sweeney  
Jeannie Hermerding  
Keith Johnson, husband of Susan  
John Racek, brother-in-law of Jamie Shake  
David Tryon, son of Mary  
Tim Walter, nephew of Bob & Thelma Holtman  
Ron Wojtowicz, friend of Deacon Marilyn

David, friend of Ed & Bev Bailey  
Patrick Frepan, friend of Happy & Karen Hill  
Katie Hollman  
Jan Smith  
Janet Walsh, friend of Susan Hahn Johnson  
Denise Hollman  
Pat Tumey

## Those with Ongoing Special Need of Prayer:

Jerid Edwards, great nephew of MJ Lynch

Ruth Tingle

## Remember to Pray for Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins:

Thelma Jones      Penny Kalk      Martha Larson      Norma Petraits      David Royer  
David Schmalz      Bob White

## Announcements

### CHURCH CALENDAR

All church events and programs are suspended until at least **May 17**. The church council will come together as this date nears to reevaluate the situation and make an informed decision about opening or continuing with social distancing. Please stay tuned for further information.

### TITHE.LY GIVING IS LIVE

Tithe.ly Giving is live! It is user friendly with a great support team! Please go ahead and test out this great resource! Simple follow this [link](#):

[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1254623](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1254623). You can go ahead and start giving today! Watch your email for more details.

### OFFERING

Though we are social distancing, our mission continues on. If you feel so moved and do not wish to use Tithe.ly, please mail your offering to the church. Please do not drop off your envelopes.

Here is the church address:

6118 Crawfordsville Rd  
Speedway, IN 46224

### STOCK PICTURES NEEDED

Every time St. Andrews has an event, pictures are taken. These photos are perfect for using on social media. Events include anything related to St. Andrews - worship, meetings, practices, ministries, Sunday School, anything that we do in and around the building as well as in and around the community. This even includes you taking the time to read the Bible at home! Send all pictures to

Kelli via email at: sta.communicationsdirector@gmail.com. Please include a blurb about who was there, when it took place, what was involved, and any other important information. Thank you!

## PLASTIC BAGS

Though we are not meeting as a group, please continue to save your plastic bags for Mat Making Mondays. By saving them now, we will be ready to go once we can safely meet again! Please also continue to save your large plastic bags for our Clothing Closet. Once church is open again, please bring them. Just keep them safe for the meantime.

## GOOD NEWS ABOUND

We have accepted a candidate for shared ministry! Please remember that we will have a four week process that starts once both churches (Faith and us) have returned to regular worship services. The exact dates will be shared once we know them. Here is how those four weeks will look:

**Week 1:** Easter Celebration

**Week 2:** Candidate preaches at Church A followed by a luncheon for Q&A

**Week 3:** Candidate preaches at Church B followed by a luncheon for Q&A

**Week 4:** Both congregations vote with a Synod representative tallying votes.

If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Suzy!

## CARDS FOR THE NURSES

This has been a trying time for everyone. Those working on the front lines are doing what they can to keep everyone safe and healthy. Their job is wonderful, full of blessing, and yet so scary and emotional each day. We can help by letting them know we see them and we care. We are encouraging everyone to share the love of Jesus by creating cards/letters with what you have at home. If you have a thank you card, great! If you don't, know that just writing a brief thank you note on a piece of loose leaf, construction paper, or whatever paper you have will be perfect too. When your cards are complete, you have a few options:

1. Take your cards to Lisa's house. Ring the doorbell and leave the card on the porch. Please do not wait for someone to answer. Todd will come get your card once you are safely back in your car.
2. Mail your cards to Lisa. (Try to do this if it is just one or two in the same envelope so you do not have to make a trip to the post office.)
3. Drop your cards off at church. There will be a box sitting just outside of the library. (Please note there will be no one at the church to let you in.)

Please reach out to your Shepherd if you have any questions.

**Lisa's address:**

421 Bauman

Indianapolis, IN 46214-3617



## LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE...

We are undertaking a major upgrade of our outside lighting.

**OUR GOAL IS \$1,700.00. HOW CAN YOU HELP REACH THIS GOAL? GIVE A GIFT TO BIF TODAY!**

What will your gift go towards?

The lights under the drive-up canopy, the lights on the crosses, and the lights on the road sign all are being replaced with new LED fixtures.

This will allow for better lighting in the evening hours and will also lower our operating costs.

Also, take an evening drive past church to check out the new lights that have already been installed.

Thank you, Building and Grounds Committee

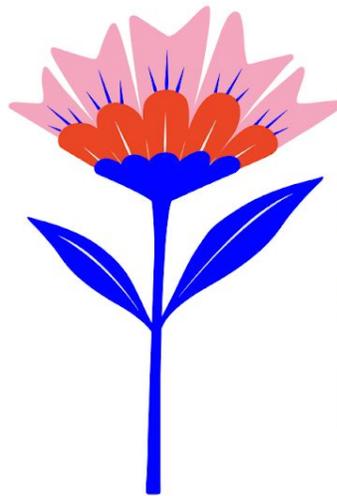
**CELEBRATE**

Congratulations to Rebecca Wolfe on the birth of her son, Conor Wolfe Byrne, on March 30, 2020.  
Congratulations to grandfather Kurt Wolfe!

**YOU'RE INVITED!!**



**04.19.2020**



**ST.  
ANDREW'S  
COMMUNITY  
BRUNCH**

Join us on Zoom to spend  
time together as a  
community.

We will meet at 10am on Zoom on  
Sunday, April 19. All you need is your  
internet connected device, the meeting  
link (which will be emailed separately),  
and your favorite morning food and  
beverage.

**See you there!**