



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

What Happens Next?

May 2025

The resurrection hope of Easter

By Mindy Makant April 20, 2025

From Living Lutheran: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/04/what-happens-next/>

My favorite story about the first Easter is found in Luke 24. Two of Jesus' followers have heard about—quite possibly even witnessed—the cruel suffering and death of Jesus and are walking away from Jerusalem, brokenhearted. They are joined on their way by a stranger who seems not to know why they might be so disheartened. “We had hoped,” they tell their companion, “that [Jesus] was the one to redeem Israel” (21).



“We had hoped.” These words carry so much weight, so much sadness. In fact, they strike me as three of the saddest words in Scripture. “We had hoped” implies that their hope had been misplaced.

But their story continues, despite their hopelessness, with the three travelers stopping for the night. When they do, their strange companion becomes host over a meal, breaks bread and gives it to them. The two disciples realize that Jesus—both the object and the source of their hope—has been with them all along.

Their hope was not misplaced. Jesus is risen from the dead.

It is hard to imagine the tidal wave of emotions these two must have felt. But their story gives me hope.

The hope of Scripture—is not a petty want but a deep longing for the promised fullness of God’s presence.

Hope, like love, is a word that can be stripped of its meaning through casual use. I may hope my coffee shop has my favorite scones this morning, or I may hope the weather will clear up and be sunny instead of rainy this afternoon. However, hope as a theological virtue—the hope of Scripture—is not a petty want but a deep longing for the promised fullness of God’s presence; it is the expectation that, as medieval anchoress Julian of Norwich wrote in her book *Revelations of Divine Love* (1670): “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Indeed, as theologian and pastor Frederick Buechner wrote in *The Final Beast* (1965): “The worst isn’t the last thing about the world. It’s the next to the last thing. The last thing is the best.” Or, as Martin Luther might have put it, [Easter](#) means that sin, death and the devil do not win.

Despite all experiential evidence to the contrary—pandemics, war, political division, family turmoil—despite all our own real and painful “we had hoped” moments, the resurrection of Jesus promises that the very thing we fear most is, ultimately, not to be feared, because the love of God cannot be stopped by the power of death.

In every funeral sermon he gives, my favorite pastor (my husband) proclaims, “Death does not get the last word; life does—God does.”

God’s promise

A quick stroll through just about any store today could lead one to think that Easter has something to do with stuffed bunnies, pastel-colored trinkets and an abundance of cheap chocolate. But Jesus did not suffer, die and rise again so that we could have cream-filled eggs, chocolate crosses or a peripatetic bunny.

The mental gymnastics required to take us from a resurrected Jesus to lavender fidget poppers defies logic. I don’t find our commercialized Easter to be a compelling story. It does not speak to my “I had hoped” moments; it is not a story on which I can stake my life.

Easter is a story of Jesus, God-made-flesh, the newborn Emmanuel we celebrated a few short months ago, who chose to live his life loving people pushed to the margins, who ate with those society declared sinners, who healed the sick, played with children and befriended those his social world called “other.”

Easter is a story of Jesus, God-made-flesh, who loved so radically, so openly, that the powers that be could not tolerate the ways Jesus’ life threatened the status quo.

Easter is a story of Jesus, God-made-flesh, crucified—executed—by the power of the state. Easter is a story of Jesus, God-made-flesh, refusing to stay dead. And Easter is a story of Jesus, God-made-flesh, who promises to come again to wipe every tear from every eye and to usher in a world in which death and dying will be no more.

That is a compelling story to me. One on which I can stake my life.

That is a compelling story to me. One on which I can stake my life.

Easter is the story that helps us hold on to the hope that the end of the world is not, in fact, the end; that all our “we had hoped” moments will ultimately be redeemed. Hope is our placeholder; it is the pause between the tick and the tock of the pendulum of time. Hope is the thing that holds on to us in this time between the (experienced past) resurrection and the (promised future) return of Jesus—in Greek, the *parousia* (second coming).

The resurrection hope of Jesus doesn’t diminish the pain and suffering of living in a [Good Friday world](#), a world in which the effects of sin, death and the devil persist. Resurrection hope makes it more poignant, more painful, precisely because through the empty cross of Jesus we see more fully the promised fullness of the kingdom of God.

The resurrection of Jesus is God’s promise that our hope is not in vain.

The end and the beginning

This promise does not, of course, make everything easy. As a professor, I spend much of my time with young adults. I’m not a social scientist, but my anecdotal observations are borne out by social science research. Our youth and young adults are more anxious, more fearful of the future, more depressed and, in short, less hopeful than the generations before them.

The reasons for this are legion and beyond the scope of my expertise. But I find, again and again, that offering a space for students to express their feelings of hopelessness in the context of a safe theological space allows them to discover the hope that Jesus’ resurrection means for them too.

One of my dearest mentors taught me that, when someone is wrestling with difficult decisions, we should ask, “What is the worst thing that could happen?” After all the worst-case scenarios are talked through, he suggests that we ask, “What happens next?” I love this question. After the worst thing you can imagine happening, even after death, then what?

Easter is our “what happens next” promise. This promise allows us to live in faith, hope and love.

In this question there is often great freedom: you discover that the worst thing you imagine will not be the end of your story, that there is, in fact, a next.

Easter is our “what happens next” promise. This promise allows us to live in faith, hope and love—despite all apparent evidence suggesting that to do so is foolish—trusting that it will not be in vain, because the worst things the world has to offer are not the end of the story.

The very God who raised Jesus from the dead promises to resurrect our worst-case-scenario of death too. This is the hope in which we live and move and have our being. Easter is the promise that God’s love is, in fact, the beginning and the end of our story.

God’s Blessings and Peace

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pastor on Vacation: April 28 – May 12

Church Clean Up Day: May 10th @ 9 am

Mother’s Day: May 11th

Women’s Bible Study: May 17th @ 10:30 am

Articles Due for June Tidings: May 22nd

Noisy Bucket Offering: May 25th

Memorial Day: May 26th



Men's Breakfast – March



We will meet for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, May 8th at 8:30am.** Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

Let's gather on Tuesday, **April 27th at 6:00pm!**



Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, May 14th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

Communications Team

We are looking for volunteers to join the new Communications Team! This team would be responsible for a variety of communication items (e.g., advertising in local newspapers, church member feedback). They will meet once a month to start and may adjust meeting frequency as needed.

For more information or if interested, please contact Carissa Hueter at huetercl@gmail.com.

Church Lawn Mowing

Spring is here and everything is growing, especially the grass around the church. The **Property Team is looking for a few people to help mow the lawn.** It takes about 1 ½ to 2 hours to mow our lawn using our zero turn mower. If you have not driven a zero turn mower, we will provide you with instructions. The Lawn is mowed **weekly either Thursday, Friday or Saturday.** There is a **sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering area.** If you have any questions, contact one of the members of the Property team.



GOLF OUTING



The Community Action Team would like to invite you to join us for an informal golf outing. We are planning to **tee off on Friday, May 9th at 10:00 am at Maple Brook Golf Course.** There is no set of rules, Just get a foursome together and hit some balls. You are welcome to invite friends to join us. After we are done playing, we will meet in the clubhouse for a refreshment and some fellowship.

If you are interested in playing, please contact Joe Crigier or Doug Ehlers, so that we can have enough tee times.

Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of May we are collecting **spaghetti noodles.** A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of the Helping Hands bulletin board to collect donations
Thank you for your support!

Pregnancy Center

The pregnancy center is in need of size 24 month boys. Size 4 diapers, and Size 3T and 4T Pull Ups. Please drop off donations in the basket located in the Gathering Space.

Sprucing up the Church



It is time again to have our annual **spring cleaning of the Church and property**. The Property Team has picked **Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 until noon** as the first of three days for everyone to get together and use a little elbow grease to spruce up the Church. As usual there are plenty of tasks to do from dusting window ledges and washing windows to trimming trees and picking up the yard.

A list of tasks is posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Some of the tasks can be completed by one individual; others may take several people. Members of the Property team will be around to answer any questions you may have on a task. You are more than welcome to work on a task prior to our Clean-up day. As you complete a task, please cross it off the list.

During the summer, the Property Team will be working on several projects and will be looking to you for help. Some of the projects will be filling the cracks in the parking lot, trimming bushes and painting the wood exterior of the church.

In addition, we are looking for **volunteers to mow the lawn this spring and summer**. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. The mowing takes about 1 ½ to 2 hours. If you are interested but want more information contact Terry Jorgensen, Harry Moore or Joe Crigier.

I know this sounds like a lot, but as the old saying goes “Many hands makes light work.” This is your church and how it looks reflects on us. So, please help us make the best impression.

Thank you in advance for YOUR help in Sprucing-up our church!



PEACE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) MANUAL

If at any time you are interested in viewing the SOP or would like a copy of a particular Standard Operating Procedure, please let me know.

Continuing with the Index:

- INCLEMENT WEATHER
- MEMORIALS
- PAYMENT FOR PURCHASE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES
- PERSONNEL/IT
- ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
- ANNUAL REVIEW FORM
- CONFIDENTIALITY
- STATEMENT
- CUSTODIANS
- DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS
- EMPLOYEE DEPARTURE
- EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
- EMPLOYEE INFORMATION SHEET
- EXIT INTRVIEW

Beverly Leffler, Chair
Personnel/IT Team



When buying ink from Staples for you or your family please consider using Peace's phone number when checking out. Your purchase of ink can apply to Peace's Rewards program. The office uses the rewards dollars for supplies for our church.

Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull for Ronald McDonald House!



Pull tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing

They turn these tabs in to cash to help support the House. The House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical treatment.

This is a simple way to help support the House, just pull those tabs off the cans and **place them in the container at church** and Dar will see that they get over to Ronald McDonald House.

Worship Ministry May 2025

Date	Sunday 5/4	Sunday 5/11	Sunday 5/18	Sunday 5/25
Altar Guild	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion	Bryan Guarnuccion
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Volunteer Needed	Beverly Leffler	Dian Leckrone	Mike and Carissa Hueter
Lector	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi
Pastor	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Sharron Pridgeon Harry Moore	Sharron Pridgeon Harry Moore	Sharron Pridgeon Harry Moore	Sharron Pridgeon Harry Moore
Worship Assistant	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln

Church Calendar – May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Pastor Neil and Sandy will be on vacation from April 28th-May 12</div>				1 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 Compassion Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:34 Preschool Sunday School	5	6 10:00 Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	7 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9:00-Noon Church Clean Up Day
11 Mother's Day 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	12	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	15 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 10:30 am Women's Bible Study
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering Synod Assembly	19 Synod Assembly	20 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting Synod Assembly	21 6:00 pm AA Meeting	22 Articles Due for the May Tidings 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering	26	27 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	28 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	29 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon
gore.kristin88@gmail.com

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*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your
neighbor as yourself.*



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