

At Cross of Calvary - Week of April 27

TABLE PRAYER

Gracious God, open the eyes of our heart to see your Son every day. May we bear witness to his gracious presence in all we say and do. Bless now the food we are about to eat. May it strengthen us for service in your name, and as we break bread may we see you in our midst. Amen

PRAYERS OF HEALING & STRENGTH

Prayer for	Submitted by	Prayer for	Submitted by
Leslie Sagedahl	<i>D Sagedahl</i>	Diana Adkins	<i>B Hennen</i>
Jean Stadtherr	<i>A Boen</i>	Joan Budd	<i>S Alton</i>
Alvina Beckman	<i>S Grasmon</i>	Stacey Frank	<i>D Boen</i>
Kathy Miller	<i>L Blem</i>	Athena Serbus-Kruger	<i>S Grasmon</i>
JoAnn Keyser	<i>C Johnson</i>	Leanne Miller	<i>S Grasmon</i>
Vonna Ledeboer	<i>M Hausken</i>	Maddie Travers	<i>K Barta</i>
Mike Bruns	<i>R Elbert</i>	Pat Heidelberger	<i>J Balgaard</i>
Ginny Faiman	<i>E Julius</i>		

Kevin and Rebekah Howell – Paraguay Missionaries

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Hints of spring.

VOLUNTEERS for May

Communion 8:30—T Gay 10:30—Dave A

Ushers 8:30/ 9:00 —N Cole, D/D Knutson, C Buhr
10:30— D Torgelson, D/K Flokm

Altar Guild V Wertish, M Hanson, K Brown

Acolytes M Revier, T Lingl



Altar Flowers – sign-up on the board

Coffee Hour and Altar Flowers – sign-up on the board

Note to all Sunday volunteers: As a courtesy to all those who volunteer alongside you, please try to find a fill-in whenever you are unable to be at church to serve as an usher, reader, acolyte or to serve communion.

--Calling to Your Attention--

Sun	Worship	8:30 and 10:30am
	Sunday School	9:30am
Mon	Ruth Circle	1:30pm
	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
Tues	Men's Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
	Assemble the Follower	1:00pm
	FH, Rm5, Rm8 Reserved	5:30-8:30pm
Wed	WOW	3:30-4:30pm
	Confirmation	5:45/6:30-7:30pm
Sat	Worship	5:30pm

04	Baptism – Helin	8:30am
04	Baptism – Dahl	10:30am
9/10	Spring Fling	
11	Baptism – Maurer	10:30am
17	Wedding – Olson /Lauer	
18	Summer Worship times begin	9:00am
18	Senior Recognition	
18	Baptism – Fisher	
18	Baptism - Harrell / FH reserved	
19	Follower Deadline	
21	Committees and Council meetings	
22	Dorcas Circle	
22	Thursday Evening Worship begins	
26	Ruth Circle	
27	Assemble the Follower	



Volunteer... *Honey-Do* List

The church has a variety of maintenance and repair jobs to keep up with throughout the year. Do you have the know-how, the tools, the time? Check with Laurie if you'd like to volunteer for one or more of the following.

- Hang mail box on office door
- Connect downspout extensions
- Hang soap dispenser in kitchen
- Install a countertop in the Sacristy
- Install balcony glass walls
- Stain and varnish interior of two Altar area windows



If you notice something that may need to be added to the *Honey-Do* list, please let Laurie know about it. Please include your name on the request, so clarifying questions may be asked and/or additional information shared.

--General Reminders--

- New Members are welcomed anytime. Contact Pastor or Laurie.
- Contact the office when needing to borrow anything from church.
- The *FOLLOWER* and weekly bulletin are available at *crossofcalvary.net*.
- *The Faithful 15* is a weekly, 15-minute podcast available on our website and on iTunes.
- The order of service is available in large print at the display rack
- We are no longer accepting used printer or toner cartridges.

Flowers for the Altar?

- Choose a date and sign up on the Board.
- Call/email the office to indicate what you'd like in the bulletin – in celebration of, in honor of, in memory of. Note: without a designation, no reference will be printed.
- Have flowers delivered by 4pm on Saturday.

Adding loved ones to the Prayer & Praise Lists:

- Please gain permission.
- Fill out a request card and drop in the offering, or go to *crossofcalvary.net*
- Names will remain on the list for a maximum of one month

Emergency/Pastoral Care - Please have a family member or friend notify the church. You may also request hospital staff to call on your behalf. Call day or night at 523-1574.

No one was able to answer your call? 320-523-1574

- Wait for the extension of the staff member you want to contact.
- Call the cell number given. They will pick up the call if able.
- Leave a message on their cell phones. Staff can check cell messages while out of the office and are more likely to return your call faster.
- If you prefer, leave a message on the church answering system.

CHECK THE COMMUNITY BOARD - East Entrance
(take-home fliers often available)



- Spaghetti Feed – Sunday, Apr 27, 10:30-1:30, Renville Comm. Center.
- Salad Luncheon – Thur, May 1. United Lutheran in Lake Lillian
- Pork Chop Dinner – Fri, May 2. United Lutheran in Lake Lillian
- Mother’s Day Brunch – May 10. First Lutheran in Renville
- Carnival – May 15. Golden Living Center in Olivia
- Celebration Ringers Handbell Choir of Our Savior’s in Bird Island is looking ringers.
- Rent Some Help and Build a Burger – St. Mary’s Youth Fund Raiser

CORRECTION

Spring Fling

Flower pick up – Meal – Rummage sale

Flower pick up Friday 4:30-7:30 PM

Meal available Friday evening only

and Saturday 8-10 AM.

Rummage sale added to this year’s Spring Fling!

We need your stuff!

Do you have stuff piling up in your house/garage/basement?

We’d love to take it off your hands!

Contact Chelsey with questions. 522-3279

We will take furniture, books, movies, knick knacks, kitchenware, holiday items etc, but **NO CLOTHING please.

Must have to the church by **NOON May 8th.

John 20:19-31

Key Verses: “Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” John 20:27-28

Time: 30 CE

Background: The disciples were afraid. Jesus had been gone only 3 days. They were without their master, and the Jews were clearly ready to do away with Jesus and his followers. They didn’t know where to go or what to do. Fear and uncertainty would have been understandable under the circumstances.

Jesus’ appearance behind locked doors would have come as a shock. It’s not surprising that Thomas would be slow to believe the disciples’ account, given the high, intense emotions from the events of the weekend all the disciples had endured.

Despite Thomas’ doubt, it should be noted that Thomas did not need to touch Jesus, as he indicated he would. Seeing Jesus was all he needed to know his Lord had returned. His eyewitness account, along with the other disciples’ accounts, were that start of the spread of the good news that Jesus was alive!

Community: Are there people in your community who may feel as though they’ve been left out of something good? How might you invite them in?

At Home: What areas of faith cause you to doubt? Let yourself sit with that doubt for a while. Ask the hard questions. Consider the scary alternatives. Talk to God. See what happens when you open yourself to your doubts, fears, options, and opportunities.

Read This Week:

Monday, Apr 28, *Seven Chosen to Serve*, Acts 6:1-7

Tuesday, Apr 29, *The Arrest of Stephen*, Acts 6:8-15

Wednesday, Apr 30, *Stephen’s Speech to the Council*, Acts 7:1-22

Thursday, May 1, *Stephen’s Speech to the Council*, Acts 7:23-43

Friday, May 2, *Stephen’s Speech to the Council*, Acts 7:44-53

Saturday, May 3, *The Stoning of Stephen*, Acts 7:54-8:1

Next Week: Sunday, May 4, *Called into Christ’s Service*, Acts 9:1-19

APRIL 27, 2014

taking GOD'S STORY home



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"
– John 20:29 (CEV)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Our Lord and our God, maybe Doubting Thomas gets a bum rap. Maybe he was only being honest when he expressed his questions about life and death. Certainly in the end, he was Believing Thomas. Help me to ask good questions and to trust and believe in the new life you offer. Amen.

A BLESSING TO SHARE

Mark another person's forehead with the sign of the cross as you say this Easter blessing:

Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and that life has been promised to you.
Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Jesus' resurrection has a way of changing people's hearts and minds—their very way of seeing the world around them—and this change is like being raised to new life. This week's readings feature people who have their minds and lives changed. Pause after you read each Bible passage and think about this: *Whose heart and mind and life are being changed?*

If your household includes younger children, you might want to use a child-friendly Bible like the *Spark! Picture Bible* (Augsburg Fortress) or *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (Zondervan; available from the Vibrant Faith Ministries online store, www.vibrantfaith.org).

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Doubting Thomas
Monday	John 21:1-19	A miraculous catch of fish
Tuesday	Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20	Resurrection and Great Commission
Wednesday	Acts 2:1-21, 37-41	Peter's first sermon
Thursday	Acts 3:1-10	The disciples heal a man
Friday	Acts 4:32-37	How the early Christians lived
Saturday	Acts 8:26-38	Philip baptizes a man from Ethiopia
Sunday	Acts 9:1-19	A new life for Saul

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Thomas saw Jesus and believed. Think about times when it was difficult to believe something because you did not see it for yourself. Discuss: *What things are hard to believe or understand if you do not experience them for yourself?* (For example, hurricanes, blizzards, childbirth, forgiveness.) *What helps you understand and trust in situations like these?*

DEVOTIONS

Continue your Easter worship by gathering everyone in your household for devotions. The following basic pattern can be your guide:

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light a candle to help you focus on the presence of the risen Christ. Pray the “Prayer for the Week.”
- **Caring Conversations.** Take a moment to discuss the ideas in “Caring Conversations.”
- **Daily Bible Reading.** Read aloud the Bible passage suggested for the day. *What do you want to remember from this reading?*
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless another person, using “A Blessing to Share.”

Try having devotions at different times, perhaps first thing in the morning or at noon. In what ways can you connect with other people for devotions if you live alone?

SERVICE

Many of the passages in John’s Gospel refer to *sight*—who can “see” Jesus for who he is and who cannot, and images of light and darkness. In the Scripture Verse for the Week (on front side), Jesus talks to Thomas about seeing and believing. Certain service clubs and mission organizations collect used eyeglasses to be restored and given to people who cannot afford eyeglasses. Think of a way to be part of this serving ministry.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

One of the oldest Easter traditions is for Christians to exchange this greeting by alternating lines: *Jesus Christ is risen today! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* Create your own tradition by greeting Christians you know with this greeting during the Easter season.



Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.