



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter
15th Avenue Christian Church

A message from Pastor Mike.....

In our Easter Sermon, we studied the account of the Resurrection provided to us by Mark. We read chapter 16, verses 1 through 8. We saw that that passage has an abrupt and somewhat unsettling ending: *They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.* If this gospel stopped after verse 8, and we didn't have the other gospels to tell us what happened, we might have to ask ourselves, "How did this story end? What difference did it make that Jesus rose from the dead? Now what?" Being left up in the air in that way would be a bit like hearing a note that was out of place in a piece of music that you know very well. To see what I mean, grab your Bible and turn to the end of Mark's gospel. In many, but not all, Bible versions, you will see a kind of closing at verse 8, and then a couple of sentences without any verse number, labeled *The Shorter Ending of Mark*. That is followed by verses 9 through 20, which are often preceded by a heading which reads, *The Longer Ending of Mark*. Ancient scribes were bothered by the uncomfortably abrupt ending. They felt that verse 8 couldn't really be the correct and the complete ending, so they added either the shorter or the longer ending that we find in our Bibles now. After a century or two, they probably had the other three gospels available to them and they could compare what the other gospel writers had written about Jesus' post-resurrection appearances, his reunions with the apostles, his instructions to them, and so forth.

This problem, this breaking off of verse 8 in mid-sentence, has sometimes been interpreted as a page missing from Mark's original manuscript. Since Mark's gospel also starts out in an abrupt manner, some have speculated that a large sheet, making up the first and last pages was lost. You can imagine how that could happen. It would be like our books, if the cover were torn off and there had been text on both the front and the back cover. In recent decades, though, scholars have gained new respect for Mark's literary approach and many now believe that this was an intentionally unsatisfying ending. The thought is that Mark wanted to leave the reader in the driver's seat. He may have wanted *each person* to answer those questions for themselves. Earlier in his gospel, Mark had Jesus asking the disciples the critical question, "Who do YOU say that I am?" Could it be that Mark had the women fleeing from the tomb in silence, at verse 8, so that that question hovers in the air for us to ponder? How will each of us answer the question, *Now what?* Now that we are in the days just after Easter, now that we have celebrated the Resurrection, maybe we can use the various endings in Mark's gospel to ask ourselves what difference the Risen Savior has made in our hearts and lives this year. May this holy season provide you with food for thought, with peace of mind, and with great joy!

Music Notes

Happy Easter! What a beautiful celebration of the Risen Lord! And for those of you who missed the Maundy Thursday service, it was a meaningful remembrance, with a special gift of the west windows reflecting on the east wall. I'm still looking for Special Music for April and May.



Please keep our former soprano and guest soloist Susan Runyon in your prayers. She is facing some medical issues and will have a fundraiser on Sunday, April 21, 1-3:30pm at St John Lutheran in East Moline.

Sheila Doak,
Music Director



Edgar Crockett,
trumpeter,
Corey Kendrick, pianist,
Marcia Renaud, pianist,
Sheila Doak, pianist,
and the St. John's Choir
Present a Fundraising Benefit for
Susan Runyon,
to help defray the costs of her cancer
treatment.

April 21, 2024
1:00 SHARP – 3:30 PM
(Drop in for a Hello, or stay for it all)

St. John's Lutheran Church
1450 30th Ave, East Moline, IL 61244

Refreshments, Fellowship and
Great Music!



Are you a Board Member?

It has been asked by several members: "Who is on the Board?"

You are a current, voting Board member if you are an elected officer (chair, vice chair, treasurer, financial secretary, historian, board secretary, etc.), or an elder, or serving or preparing deacon. Anyone from the list of people that the congregation voted on at the December Congregational meeting.

The next Board meeting is Sunday, April 21st, shortly after our church service. Hope to see you there 😊

Birthdays

- 2 Mona Lyons Mlekush
- 21 Dave O'Melia
- 23 Jeff Hinrichsen
- 24 Jeanne O'Melia
- 28 Jesse R. Andereck



BRUNCH-OUT

Last month on March 13, we had 14 people attend Church Basement Ladies play at Circa 21. We enjoyed the food, the play, and the fellowship. Before Covid, we had a group that went out after church one Sunday a month for a lunch/brunch. We enjoyed visiting different restaurants in the Quad Cities, visiting with church members, and getting better acquainted. So, it's time to try the outings again. We invite you to join us on Sunday, April 28th, 11:30am at Wahlburgers/Market Grill at Hy-Vee in Milan, 201 - 10th Avenue W. We will have a great variety on the menu, from breakfast to lunch, salads, sandwiches, or full plate meals, even Chinese or Italian to choose from. Let me know by April 25th if you want to join us so we can make final confirmation of our group reservation.

Looking forward to seeing YOU at our Brunch-Out,
Sally Bartosh

Music Camp News!

Grace Church's session met to discuss hosting Music Camp this summer. They are very excited about it and are willing to take on full responsibility. If anyone would like to help, you are most welcome! Camp will be held June 10-14 with the show during their 10:30am service on June 16.

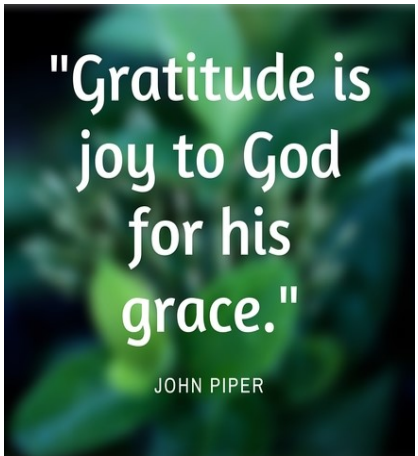
Thanks,
Sheila

Please see the Calendar at the end of the Bell for Serving Elders, Serving & Preparing Deacons, Meeting times, Fellowship Hosts, and Flowers scheduling.

Journey of Gratitude

Just a reminder to turn your Journey of Gratitude donations on Easter Sunday or during the first few weeks of April. Please remember that this is a fundraiser to help us reach our Outreach giving goals for the year. Every dollar helps. Please mark that it is either for Outreach or the Journey of Gratitude.

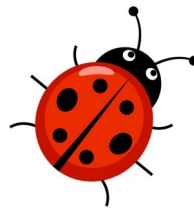
Thank you, Lisa Hatlett & The Outreach Committee



THANK YOU!!!!

I would like to thank all of you who took time to send me cards, phone calls, and visits during my hospital, rehab and home care. It is greatly appreciated. I feel the prayers from all. A big thank to Mike who encouraged me through my progress.

Dave

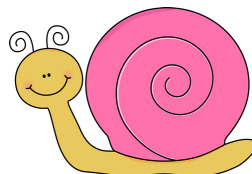


Anniversaries

- 3 Pam and Jeff Demarlie
- 6 Bill and Judie Holmer
- 12 Dave and Helen Popp
- 27 Steve and Lynne Sheese

PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Total Income	\$4610.00
Total Expenses	\$8127.51
Net Income	(\$3517.51)



March Attendance

March 3	27
March 10	28
March 17	42
March 24 Palm Sunday	33
March 31 Easter	54



RiverBend Bronze Handbell Ensemble



Saturday, April 27; 3:00p

First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

Sunday, April 28; 3:00p

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13th Street, Moline, IL

Admission to both concerts is free

www.riverbendbronze.org

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

Please keep these family, friends and neighbors in your daily thoughts and prayers.

Send a card, a call on the phone or a visit. Let them know they are not forgotten.

Bob Bloomer in rehab (AZ) after falls. (Annie & family) Dennis O. cancer (Janet)

Good news! Cathy Wilson tests showed that the spots are resolving on their own. The oncologist said they were not cancerous. Great news! (Lisa & family)

Karen had follow up (Mike & family) Mike Mix smashed his hand at work (Marilyn & family)

Marilyn Mix- Lymph nodes (family) Susan Runyon is beginning cancer treatments (friend of Bartosh)

Henry Diedrich fell and broke hip (Nov) Silver Cross #255 (family)

Travis Gray died Sunday, 28 yrs. old. (neighbor to Popp)

Terrie Rutherford is having heart valve replacement (family)

Patty R. spine surgery is home now. (Rick & family) Olivet is home now. (Sheila & family)

Dave Popp looking at knee replacement. (Helen & family)

Wayne Carter is in hospice. (Susan, Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel and family)

Mike B. (Sabrinna, Zac & family) Cathy Wilson, cancer (Lisa & family)

Theresa in hospital Blake (Jeanie) Emma (Jeanie) / Wayne L. / Hunter (family)

Chad Secor (Dave & Helen's nephew) David, Cancer (friend of Weston's)

Edward Gridley (Jacob) Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)

Carla Rosalie Molly Mary Nickie (family) Nancy G, cancer (family) Pat, cancer (family)

Kim Poleing (Karen) Kenny (Karen) Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Juliana & Hector (Jeanie) Chaplaincy at John Deere (Jeanie Kirgan)

Jerry Roelens (Barb Hanson & family) Wm. "Bill" Mockmore (Judie, Bill and family)

Gavin, Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family) Kaylee Walker (Karen & family)

Dennis Popp (Kathy, Matt, David & Helen) Kathy Overholzer (Dave & Helen's niece)

Julie (cancer) Brenda O. (family) Dawn F. (family) Cara (friend of Diane B.)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's) Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

Vickie (Jesse & Melba) Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family)

15th Avenue
Christian
Church

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship	8 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	9 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	10	11 10am Bible Study	12	13
14 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	15 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	16 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	17	18 10am Bible Study	19	20
21 9:30am Worship 10:30 Board Mtg	22 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	23 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	24	25 10am Bible Study	26	27
28 9:30am Worship	29 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	30 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice Bell Deadline				

Serving Elders
7 Mark Carlson
14 Kathy Weston
21 Annie Bloomer
28 Sally Bartosh

Visiting Elders
Sally Bartosh and
Alice Lyons

Serving Deacons
HD Barb Hansen, Grace
Carlson, Karen Hitchcock,
and Marty Larson

Preparing Deacon
Helen Popp

Flowers
7 Lisa Hatlett
14 Alice Lyons
21 Lisa Hatlett
28 Steve & Lynne
Sheese



April Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Matthew 16:24-28
 Day 2- John 11:25-26
 Day 3- Matthew 21:1-11
 Day 4- Luke 23:26-30
 Day 5- Luke 23:33-38
 Day 6- Luke 24:36-49
 Day 7- Psalm 25:1-6

Day 8- Psalm 25:7-14
 Day 9- Psalm 25:15-22
 Day 10- Proverbs 3:3-12
 Day 11- Colossians 3:22-25
 Day 12- Romans 3:21-26
 Day 13- Psalm 16:1-5
 Day 14- Psalm 16:6-11

Day 15- Romans 2:1-4
 Day 16- Isaiah 66:12-14
 Day 17- James 5:7-11
 Day 18- Isaiah 43:1-3
 Day 19- Psalm 66:8-12
 Day 20- Hebrews 4:15-16
 Day 21- 1 John 5:1-5

Day 22- 1 John 5:6-12
 Day 23- Psalm 105:1-5
 Day 24- Psalm 106:1-5
 Day 25- Colossians 3:1-3
 Day 26- Hebrews 12:1-2
 Day 27- Matthew 6:25-27
 Day 28- Matthew 6:28-34

Day 29- John 14:1-4
 Day 30- Psalm 150:1-6



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
 Psalm 119:18