

Easter Message

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic,^[a] "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. John 20:11-18 ESV (<https://www.biblegateway.com/>)

This section of the telling of Jesus' resurrection has often interested me. Mary Magdalene had spent an enormous amount of time with Jesus and His followers. She knew Him as a friend and came to know Him to be the appointed Savior. How after all of that could she not recognize Him? Bible notes indicate that Jesus' appearance may have changed after His death and resurrection (similar to when He was transfigured) or He may have prevented Mary from recognizing Him. Either way it was not the only time He was not recognized after His resurrection. While walking along the road to Emmaus two travelers invite Him to join them not realizing who He is. How much they learned from Him and a better understanding they gained about His life, death, and resurrection. His own disciples did not recognize Him as they returned to the shore after fishing. How could these men who spent almost every day of the last three years with Jesus not recognize Him. This again could be explained the same as why Mary Magdalene did not recognize Him.

While these incidents may seem unexplainable to us we could also as ourselves how many times do we not recognize Jesus? I am not suggesting that Jesus has appeared to you, in person, and you didn't know who He was. I am saying how often do we miss Him in all He does for us. The times things just seemed to work out in a difficult situation or when you felt an illness coming on and it never did or even finding that extra five dollars you needed in your pocket. There are so many times that we miss or don't recognize Jesus at work in our lives. This time of year, gives us a chance to pause and remember all He has done and continues to do for us. We can mourn His death, celebrate His resurrection, and rejoice in all of the times He continues to care for and help us.

It is wonderful that we have the ability to share Jesus with our students everyday in so many ways. We know the obvious times religion class, chapel, praying before meals, but what about the times that aren't as obvious? We learn about Jesus in science, social studies, English, and even the dreaded math class (for some students). He may not be discussed in every lesson, but He is there in the knowledge that is shared and learned. At times, He is specifically discussed, such as with the 7th grade science discussions we have about creation versus evolution. We are able to see why evolution does not make sense when looked at through a creationist view point.

We are very thankful for all of the opportunities we are given on a daily basis to make Jesus recognizable to our students. We are thankful for everyone who supports our school in so many different ways. We pray for the continued support of St. Stephen Lutheran School allowing more students to be able to see and recognize Jesus everyday and every way. Blessings to all of you this Easter season and beyond.

Mrs. Amy Rupnow, Principal

**ST. STEPHEN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

505 N. Palmatory Street
Horicon, WI 53032

Pastor

Rev. Mark C. Wilkens
mcwilkens68@gmail.com

Principal

Mrs. Amy Rupnow
arupnow@ststephen-lcms.org

Church/School Office

Phone (920)485-6687
FAX (920)485-2545

Church/School Website

www.ststephen-lcms.org

Church/School Email

ststeph@ststephen-lcms.org



Worship Services

Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

1st Wed. of Month – 1:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

Every Sunday – 9:00 a.m.

1st & 3rd Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

1st Wednesday – 1:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday

- April 1 Penelope Huffman
April 5 Fletcher Feathers
April 8 Violet Elliott
April 25 Pastor Wilkens
April 30 Wyatt Franz

Upcoming Events

- April 1 No School
April 2 School Resumes
April 4 Board of Education
April 15 Chapel *note day change*
April 17 Weather Day at Brewers
3rd-7th grades
April 18 School Choice Open
Enrollment Deadline
April 19 Capitol Field Trip
3rd-7th grades

A Presence of Peace

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20 NIV)

Jesus died on Good Friday. He was placed in a tomb. It appeared that the presence of Christ had been taken away from the world.

Then came Easter Sunday. There was an empty tomb. Later that evening Jesus appears to His disciples. The presence of Christ had not been taken away from the world. Rather, Christ came to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you!" The presence of Jesus is there for the disciples.

The gift of peace is given to the disciples. God's plan is fulfilled. Peace is given to the disciples. What was the response? When a gift of peace is given there is joy. The joy experienced by the disciples must have been exceedingly great. They were given the gift of peace from Jesus who is present with them on the evening of the first day of the week.

There are many people who long for peace. They search for peace throughout their lives. They search for peace in solitude. They search for peace in being entertained. They search for peace by taking trips. They search for peace by trying to conform other people to their way of thinking. And yet, for many people peace seems elusive.

We need to come to the source of peace. The peace from this source surpasses all human understanding. The source of peace is seen in an empty tomb. It is a peace given from God to all people through Jesus Christ. But that is not the end of it. We don't just think about an empty tomb for peace.

Jesus has given us, His disciples today, the peace of His presence. It is a peace present with us daily because Jesus claimed us as His own through Baptism. It is a peace present with us as the Lord meets us in His Word. It is a peace present with us when the Lord gives us His body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins.

The peace of His presence is with us today! It is with us as He tells us "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." It is with us as Jesus sends us into the world as His disciples of peace to share His presence of peace!

Pastor Wilkens

April Chapel Offerings

St. Stephen Food Pantry

Our April Chapel recipient is the **St. Stephen Food Pantry**.

The pantry is open on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 8-10 a.m. It serves residents in the Horicon School District and those with a Juneau or Hustisford address. Your donations help the staff keep staples on the shelves for those less fortunate in our community.

Please give generously.



Offerings are collected at every Chapel service and encourage faithful giving of first fruits to our Lord. Chapel offering envelopes were distributed on the first week of school. If you have misplaced yours, please contact the Office.

