Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For a month now, we’ve been in the season of Lent. The mood is somber. Our praise and worship is subdued. But in a just over a week, we will sing hosannas on Palm Sunday. And then on Easter Sunday, we will cry “Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

The unbridled joy of Easter tells us who we are and why we are here in this Church of God. From the beginning, Christianity has been the proclamation of the only possible joy on earth. The gospel begins and ends with joy. “For, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy” – “And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” (Luke 2:10, 24:52). Joy to the world at Christmas: God has become man! Joy in the ministry of Jesus: the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Joy at the resurrection of Christ: the Lord is risen!

Without the proclamation of this joy, Christianity is incomprehensible. A Christianity with no Alleluias is no Christianity at all. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is in vain; you are still in your sins! If we only have hope in Christ in this life, we are of all men the most pitiable.” (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19). The joy of the resurrection of Christ is the foundation and crown of all our preaching and faith.

Christ has risen, and so will we. Christ lives, and we live in Him. Everything that we do in the Church is rooted in this great joy. The reality of the resurrection, that Jesus who was crucified has risen from the dead, undergirds every moment of our existence as the people of God. Even in Lent, we always remember that He is risen.

The joy of Alleluias is a mystery. It is not something that can be transferred from one person to the next by careful, rational explanation. Christ has destroyed death by death and brought life to us who were dead. This joy must be experienced. Easter joy impacts all our senses – we see the white paraments, and smell the lilies, and hear the exuberant, almost fierce triumph of the Easter hymns.

Most especially, we experience the joy of Easter in the Eucharist — the sacrament of thanksgiving and joy. We hold in our hands the body of Christ. We taste our salvation. We partake of the body and blood of our Lord, given and shed for us. We are made to be the body of Christ — the one who died and lives. In our celebration of the Lord’s Supper, we ourselves participate in the eternal joy of Jesus’ victory. Hosanna! Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be with you.

In Him, Pastor Hansen
News from the Family Life Coordinator

As we finish up the season of Lent this month and celebrate the joy of our Savior’s resurrection at Easter, I would encourage families to attend the special services held throughout Holy week. In our Lutheran tradition, these services are filled with sensory reminders of the life of Jesus and His followers that final week before Easter. The sights, smells, and sounds in these services can hold particular meaning for children, as well as adults.

- The Hosannas and waving of palm leaves on Palm Sunday remind us of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- The communion on Maundy Thursday reminds of the wonderful gift of communion through the Lord’s Supper. It is followed by the stripping of the altar symbolizing Jesus’ humiliation by the soldiers as they mocked Him.
- During the Good Friday service, we will be reminded of Jesus’ bitter death on a cross and His light being snuffed out as the lights in the sanctuary are extinguished one by one.
- The Easter Vigil service begins in the dark with the lighting of the Paschal (Easter) candle and everyone lighting their own candles from it as we are reminded of God’s promise of a savior throughout scripture.
- The Easter morning Sunrise Service begins with the dressing of the altar, acknowledging the risen Savior. The children will hang their Alleluia banners once again celebrating the joy of Easter with our loud Alleluias ringing in our worship services.

Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
- Julie Baumler, Family Life Coordinator
319-292-2097, familylife@splcmv.org

Sunday School Social – April 1, 9:30 AM
Children and youth from preschool through high school should plan to attend the Sunday School social on Saturday, April 1 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. They will make their class Alleluia banner that will be hung on Easter morning, build a resurrection garden to take home, and make Resurrection Rolls – YUM!

Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning
There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children following the Easter morning brunch (which starts at 8:15). We will have bags for the children to put their eggs in or they may bring an Easter basket, if they’d like. All children are welcome to participate. If you would like to donate candy (or other small items) for the hunt, please place them in the box in the Sunday School office no later than March 31.

Children Sing on April 23
The children will be singing at Hallmark Care Center during the Sunday School hour on April 23. They will also sing during the worship service. Please plan to have your preschool – 4th graders at the church no later than 8:15 a.m. We will carpool to Hallmark.

Large Cardboard Needed for VBS Decorations
Start saving your large pieces of cardboard (like appliance boxes, etc.) for our Mighty Fortress VBS decorations. If you have a place to store them at home until May, that would be helpful. If not, please place them (Continued on page 3)
in the Sunday School office, and we will tuck them away until we’re ready to use them.

Join our Mighty Fortress VBS July 9-13
VBS 2017 is a victory celebration! In Mighty Fortress VBS, your children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! They’ll look into the Bible and explore five Bible accounts about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory Jesus has won for us. Mark your calendars and plan your vacations around VBS this year. All children entering preschool through 5th grade in fall 2017 are invited to join us.

Volunteer for VBS
As VBS volunteers, you will live out the theme, “In Jesus, victory is won!” as you share the message and the fun with kids! Volunteers are needed to help plan, teach, decorate, etc. Let me know if you have questions.

Sunday School Lessons for April
Below are the lessons the preschoolers through 4th graders will be studying the month of April. Parents may wish to read the stories themselves to learn right along with their children. You can also reinforce the week’s lesson by reading the story to your children from The Story Bible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Story Bible Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>Peter Denies Jesus</td>
<td>Mark 14:26–72</td>
<td>p. 395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/16</td>
<td>No Sunday School – Easter</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Upcoming Dates
April 1 – Sunday School Easter Activity
April 23 – Children Sing at Hallmark, during Worship
May 21 – Last day of Sunday School, Breakfast potluck
July 9-13 – Vacation Bible School

Confirmation
Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, April 30 (first communion will be May 7). We have 5 confirmands this spring: Megan Baumler, Aliya Keaton, Sydney Shultz, Ben Sullivan, Blake Zahradnik. There will be a reception for the confirmands during fellowship time on that Sunday.

Graduate Recognition
We will be recognizing high school and college graduates of the congregation on Sunday, May 14. If you have a graduate, please forward the following information to Tracy by May 7: Name, parents, birthdate, school graduating from, future plans.
Sonya Sullivan is our new youth coordinator! She has already begun planning events and working with the youth. We appreciate your prayers and support as she serves our youth and congregation in this role. Contact info: youth@splcmv.org, 319-360-8521.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:
- S. School Easter Event
  Saturday, April 1, 9:30am
- SH Youth Night
  Sunday, April 9, 6pm
- Easter Break. Setup
  Sat., April 15, 8-10am
- Easter Breakfast
  Sunday, April 16
- SH Youth Night
  Sunday, April 23

The schedule for Holy Week is as follows:

**April 9, Palm Sunday**
- 8:15am Sunday School
- 9:30am Worship with Palm Processional

**April 13 Holy Thursday**
- 6:30pm Worship with Communion

**April 14, Holy Friday**
- 6:30pm Worship (Chief Service)

**April 15, Holy Saturday**
- 7:30pm Easter Vigil

**April 16, Easter Sunday**
- 7am Sunrise Service with Communion
- 8:15am Easter Breakfast, Egg Hunt
- 10am Worship with Communion

*Note: NO Sunday School*

On Sunday, April 2, Amy Formella from Lutheran Bible Translators will be giving a presentation about the organization in the fellowship hall during the Sunday School hour and a shorter presentation in the sanctuary at the end of the worship service. A freewill offering for Lutheran Bible Translators will be taken that Sunday as well.

Volunteers are needed to help strip the altar on Holy Thursday, April 13 at the 6:30pm worship service. On Easter Sunday, April 16, volunteers are needed to help dress the altar at the early service (7am). Ten people are needed for each service. If you are able to help at either or both services, please sign up on the signup sheets in the Narthex or talk to Lea Snedden. Thank you.

Flowers for Easter

On Easter Sunday we will again be using Easter lilies, or any spring flower to adorn our altar. Contact Rebecca Hansen or Gloria Krob if you wish to bring in your own flowers, and have please have them at the church no earlier than Sat., April 15. There are envelopes for monetary donations on the bulletin table in the Narthex. Place donations in the offering plate, and make checks out to the church with “Easter Flowers” in the memo line. Please have your monetary donations in by Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday).

The Priscilla Guild is collecting items for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed for one kit are listed on the flyer near the donation basket in the Narthex. Also, we are in need of cloth diapers (flat fold preferred) for baby care kits. If you would like to make homemade diapers, they can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Instruction flyers for making homemade diapers are near the collection basket in the Narthex.
May newsletter articles are due Sunday, April 16.
Serving the Lord in April

Sunday, April 2 (communion)
Elder: Nate Von Behren
Acolyte: Sydney Shultz
Ushers/Greeters: Golbergs
Fellowship: Council

Sunday, April 9 (communion-Palm Sunday)
Elder: Daniel Sanchez
Acolyte: Mollie Snedden
Crucifer: Ben Sullivan
Ushers/Greeters: Butch & Kay Heck
Fellowship: Muffins for Mites

Thursday, April 13, Holy Thursday (communion)
6:30pm
Elder: Scott Baumler
Acolyte: Blake Zahradnik
Crucifer: Kian Hageman
Ushers/Greeters: Willis & Carol Wulf

Friday, April 14, Holy Friday
6:30pm
Elder: Daniel Sanchez
Acolyte/Crucifer: Megan Baumler
Usher/Greeter: Baumlers

Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
Usher/Greeter: Daniel Sanchez

Easter Sunday, April 16 (communion)
7am Sunrise Worship
Elder: Gary Spiess
Acolyte: Mollie Snedden
Crucifer: Ben Sullivan
Ushers/Greeters: Baumlers
Fellowship: Easter Breakfast (8:15am)

Easter Sunday, April 16 (communion)
10am Service
Elder: Gary Spiess
Acolyte: Bryce Hepker
Crucifer: Aliya Keaton
Ushers/Greeters: Golbergs
Fellowship: Easter Breakfast (8:15am)

Sunday, April 23 (communion)
Elder: Scott Baumler
Acolyte: Sydney Shultz
Ushers/Greeters: Willis & Carol Wulf
Fellowship: Voters’ Assembly & Potluck

Sunday, April 30 (Confirmation)
Elder: Nate Von Behren
Acolyte: Kian Hageman
Crucifer: Bryce Hepker
Ushers/Greeters: Kim & Gary Spiess
Fellowship: Confirmation Reception

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- 4/2: Gary’s/donuts — Council
- 4/9: Muffins for Mites — P. Guild
- 4/16: Easter Breakfast — Youth
- 4/23: Voters’ Assembly — All
- 4/30: Confirmation Reception
- 5/7: Gary’s/donuts — Elders
- 5/14: Gary’s/meat & cheese — Altar Guild
- 5/21: Last Day of Sunday School potluck
- 5/28: Muffins for Mites — P. Guild

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

2017 SPRING WORK DAYS
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
&
SATURDAY, MAY 6

Workday begins at 9am. Lunch is provided. Email sitemanager@iodiseca.org for more information.
Free Movie Event

Don’t miss this special event: a one-time showing of the new Martin Luther film at:
COLLINS ROAD THEATRES
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 at 10:00 am

This entertaining new film follows the great adventure story of Luther’s life, packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it’s a story about the most important questions of faith and life.

It’s a must-see for Christians who want to learn about the bold reforms brought about by the Reformation as the 500th Anniversary of this historic event is commemorated. The only place you can see the film at this special screening.

Filmed in historic locations across Europe, this movie brings Luther’s story to life with exquisite attention to detail. It’s a chance to strengthen your faith by revisiting the birth of Protestant Reformation, and to share that experience with others.

This event is brought to you free of charge by Thrivent Community-Mississippi Valley. You will receive free admission, a free drink, and free unlimited popcorn.

A panel of local pastors will welcome you and speak briefly about the impact of the Reformation and its anniversary on their churches.

Thrivent Community-Mississippi Valley asks that attendees bring generous donations of non-perishable food items for our local food banks in lieu of the cost of admission and snacks.

To reserve your seat, call our Thrivent office at 319-366-2991. Seating is limited to 250 people, so call soon.

Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community
Are you interested in providing meaningful support and making a big difference in the lives of patients and families receiving hospice care? We are currently seeking volunteers to join our team.

- Read to patients
- Sit with a patient to give the caregiver a break
- Listen to a memory or story
- Provide office help
- Run errands

For more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator:
319.390.4161 or 877.757.7299
or visit careinitiativesshopecare.org

Creation Museum/Ark Encounter Bus Trip

A bus trip to the Creation Museum/Ark Encounter is planned for July 31-August 4, 2017. The bus will be leaving from Trinity Lutheran in Vinton, Iowa at 7:00am. At this time, there are still seats available.

The trip includes:
The bus ride and bus driver’s tip
Supper at the Golden Corral Monday evening
Four nights at the Holiday Inn Breakfast every morning at the Holiday Inn Two-day ticket into the Creation Museum A ticket to the star gazer theater A ticket to a workshop at the Creation Museum A ticket into the Ark Encounter

The price of the trip is as follows:
- Single occupancy $860.00
- Double occupancy $605.00
- Triple occupancy $515.00
- Quad occupancy $470.00

We travel I-80 to I-74 in Illinois. We educate people on why the Creation Museum and Ark were built and the struggles involved. We stop at Market Place Mall in Champaign, IL for a noon lunch break.

We spend Tuesday and Wednesday at the Creation Museum and Thursday at the Ark. In the evening we try to plan something fun to do. Friday, August 4th we travel home.

For additional information contact: Ellen Bauer 806 Juhl Avenue Waverly, IA 50677. 319-352-5435 ellen.bauer@mchsi.com.
## BALANCE SHEET

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<thead>
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<th>Account Type</th>
<th>Notable Net Asset Balances</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
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<td>Checking Account</td>
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<td>Money Market Account</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$184,559</strong></td>
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| Liabilities & NA             | $703                     |            |
| **Total Net Assets**         | **$183,856**             |            |

| Cash & Money Market          | 3%                       |            |
| Mutual Funds                 | 97%                      |            |
| **Rate of Return**           | 5.82%                    |            |

| Market Value                 | $114,704                 |            |
| Unrealized Gain/(Loss)       | $3,661                   |            |
| Realized Gain/(Loss)         | $339                     |            |
| Dividends Earned             | $2,790                   |            |
| Fees                         | $1,019                   |            |

## Investments

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<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/31</td>
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<td>2/28</td>
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## BUDGET

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<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
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<td>Tithes &amp; Offerings</td>
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<td>Pastoral Support</td>
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<td>Ministry Support Staff</td>
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<td>Building &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Ministries</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Excess Income/(Expense)</td>
<td><strong>$15,121</strong></td>
<td><strong>$(3,821)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$894</strong></td>
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## Non-Budgeted Items

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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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## Contributions

- **January 2016**: $20,000
- **February 2016**: $20,000
- **March 2016**: $15,000
- **April 2016**: $12,500
- **May 2016**: $10,000
- **June 2016**: $7,500
- **July 2016**: $5,000
- **August 2016**: $2,500
- **September 2016**: $2,000
- **October 2016**: $1,500
- **November 2016**: $1,000
- **December 2016**: $500

**2017 Contributions**:

- **January 2017**: $20,000
- **February 2017**: $17,500
- **March 2017**: $15,000
- **April 2017**: $12,500
- **May 2017**: $10,000
- **June 2017**: $7,500
- **July 2017**: $5,000
- **August 2017**: $2,500
- **September 2017**: $2,000
- **October 2017**: $1,500
- **November 2017**: $1,000
- **December 2017**: $500

**T&O - Gift of Stock received: $11,961.60**

**240 shares of Church & Dwight**