

What's so important about Jesus dying and rising from the dead?

"I don't want to die. I want to live."

A man I had known for about 25 minutes said these words to me as we were flying over the Caribbean Sea between Puerto Rico and Antigua. We were in the middle of a horrific lightning storm. Ten seconds before he said this, our airplane had lost all power and began to dip rather suddenly towards the deep blue expanse of water beneath us. Thankfully, the airplane regained power after only a few agonizing seconds, and we quickly climbed back to our cruising altitude.

Ever Wonder?

"Death scares me," he went on, "because I know nothing about it. I only know how to live."

Choosing between something you know nothing about and something you know quite a bit about is a pretty easy decision. Most everyone feels more confident with what they are familiar with. That's why this gentleman was not the first person to express himself in this way. He most certainly will not be the last. Who can feel more confident about dying than living since we only know about life and not death?

Jesus had never died either. But as he hung on his cross, he knew it was coming. In fact, he had told his followers the day before that "it was for this reason (dying) that he came to this hour" (John 12:27).

Jesus chose death, and he did so with you in mind. Jesus chose death to prove to you that those who follow him have no reason to be afraid of death.

If the pilot of our airplane had guaranteed the passengers before that flight that we would land safely, that he had flown through worse storms and made it, that the backup generators on the plane would keep any power outage from harming us, we would have been much more confident despite the storm.

I WILL NOT DIE BUT LIVE,

Jesus makes a much greater guarantee when he tells us we don't have to be afraid of death. And he proved it by living after he died. The dead body of Jesus was placed in a grave on Friday evening, but he rose from the dead three days later.

When you follow Jesus, death's scare is taken away. The living Jesus gives you the confidence that your grave will be empty, just like his was. He tells all his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

Jesus' death and resurrection are important because it guarantees for his believers that they too will rise from the dead and live forever!

-WELS Outreach newsletters

Congregational News



Membership Actions At a recent Council meeting, Katie Ford was released from membership as she has joined another Christian Church in South Carolina. Mark Justman was transferred to St. Lucas Lutheran Church in Kewaskum at his request. We wish them well in their new church homes.

Holy Week Devotional Martin Luther College has once again provided a mini devotion book entitled *God's Suffering Servant*. Written by several of the MLC professors, the eight devotions focus on how the prophet Isaiah introduces the Messiah as God's Suffering Servant. We will see our Lord in

his hour of suffering—the pain and scorn heaped on him, the antagonism of enemies, and the faithlessness of friends. Then, on Easter Sunday we'll rejoice as we see the Suffering Servant rise from the dead to become the King Victorious. Pick one up from the cabinets in the entryway.



Lenten Worship The theme for the 2022 Lenten sermons is “The Crucial Hours.” The series ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus’ passion that demonstrate the thoroughness of his saving work and the depth of his love for us. The remaining midweek and Holy Week schedule / themes

are...

- March 30 Satan Has Asked to Sift All of You
- April 6 They Bound Him
- April 10 Palm Sunday: A Misunderstood King
- April 14 Holy Thursday: 3 Unions in Holy Communion
- April 15 Good Friday: Seven Crucial Last Words
- April 17 Easter Sunrise Song Service
- April 17 Easter Festival: God's Easter Declaration about You

Easter Breakfast Yes, we do have an Easter breakfast planned for this Easter at 7 a.m. Sign up to donate some of the needed food or bakery items on the bulletin board, then join us for a delicious breakfast after the sunrise service on Easter Sunday!

Lighthouse Youth Ministry One of the long-running volunteer projects sponsored by our evangelism committee is our relationship with Lighthouse Youth Center in Milwaukee. Zion is scheduled to serve supper on Friday, April 8th. You can help by checking the signup sheet on the bulletin board, signing up for a donation or two, and then



bringing the items to church before 4 p.m. that Friday.

Bags Tournament Recap Thanks to all who came out for our bags tournament recently. Almost 50 members and friends of Zion participated in the tournament itself, with a number of others who came to cheer everyone on. Kevin and Ben took home the championship trophy and the cousin combination of Dylan and Ayden took the consolation prize. Thanks also to our evangelism committee which organized everything.

Facebook If you haven't been on Zion's facebook page lately, go to facebook, search for Zion – Allenton and catch up on the latest news via pictures and videos.....you'll see some action from the bags tournament most recently. Like us!

Spring Work Day Saturday, April 23rd (rain date April 30th) is the scheduled day for our spring cleanup around church (both outside and inside). We'll begin about 8:00 a.m. As in past years, there is a big list to complete, with everything from work in the cemetery to edging, raking, sweeping, dusting, and much more. As always, many hands make light work, so please put the date on your calendar and join us for an hour or three.

2022 WELS International Youth Rally – Calling All Teenagers! Registration has opened for the 2022 WELS International Youth Rally, June 28–July 1 at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville. The rally is open to all WELS teens



heading into their freshman year of high school through seniors graduating this spring. Youth from around North America will gather for group worship, small workshops, and recreation and fellowship. This rally is going to be really important for

two reasons. First, it's bringing together teens to help them realize the church of God is so much larger than individual WELS congregations—where the average weekly worship attendance is at 70. Second, it's an opportunity for the youth leaders to connect and share ideas.

The theme for the 2022 rally is “Here and Now,” inspired by Esther 4:14. WELS Director of Discipleship Donn Dobberstein says, “Esther probably

isn't the first name you think of as a biblical hero; her story isn't as well known. But when you read it, it's powerful. It's a story of how God can choose someone out of obscurity and use them for his purpose. God doesn't have a use for our youth only in the future or down the road. Like a young Esther, you don't know what God's timing is for you, but he does have a plan for you. I believe God has a plan for you here and now."

So far, in the first week of registration, hundreds of people have already registered for the rally. Rally organizers are anticipating about 2,000 attendees. Registration runs March 8–May 31. The cost is \$375 if groups register by April 30 and \$395 from May 1-31.

Learn more about the workshops, recreational excursions, and the rally—and register—at wels.net/youthrally.

Area Events, Invitations & Opportunities

KML Family Music Fest 2022 The KML Music Department is busy planning for this year's edition of Family Music Fest. Please plan to join us for some Fun in the Sun on **Friday, April 8**, from 5:00-9:00 pm. Monies raised at this event will go toward the improvement of technology within the KML



Music Department. This event features elementary and high school musical performances, games, live and silent auctions, and Science Fair projects from our Lutheran Elementary School

students. Food options include a fish fry, concession items, and a dessert bar. Join us for a night of music, food, and family fun! Adult admission is \$5. Children/students get free admission. The fish dinner is \$12.

If you would like to donate desserts or theme baskets, crafts or services for the silent and live auctions, they are still being accepted. Contact Angela Hohenstein (angela.hohenstein@kmlhs.org) or visit

www.kmlhs.org/fmf for donation forms, volunteer signup forms, and more information.

Tough Issues Podcast Suicide. Suffering. Science and Ethics. Keeping your children in the faith. Parenthood's burdens and blessings. Chances are one or more of these topics may have touched your life, yet how often are they approached from a distinctly Lutheran perspective? These are also all modern-day issues discussed recently on the Life Challenges Podcast from Christian Life Resources. Check it out, give a listen, and perhaps you'll find yourself better prepared the next time you face tough issues like these. Find it at lifechallenges.us or on your favorite podcast platform.

Easter Vigil at Crown of Life Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Hubertus invites the members of the WELS and ELS congregations in our area to attend its Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday, **April 16**, at 7:30 p.m. The Vigil begins at sunset on Easter Eve, and anticipates the resurrection of Jesus through Scripture, song, silence, and prayer. The joyful announcement of Jesus' resurrection occurs near the end of the service, marking the transition from Lent to Easter, and the service concludes with the Lord's Supper. You are cordially invited to attend this unique Holy Saturday service at Crown of Life Lutheran Church, located at 1292 Tally Ho Trail in Hubertus.



Seminary Scurry Come out for some family fun and get to you're your Seminary better by attending the annual "Seminary Scurry" on **Saturday, April 30th**, 2022. The morning will include a 5k walk/run, 1/2 mile kids Scurry, a bounce house, face painting, tours of the campus and a free lunch for everyone registered. Registration is \$20 for adults and free for everyone 18 and under. Register soon to make sure that we have your t-shirt ready by race day! For more information, visit our Scurry webpage at www.wisluthsem.org/seminary-scurry-2022. We hope to see you there!

WELS / ELS Singles Group "If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to socialize, make friends, or enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook



group! Our group consists of over 500 members from around the world with ages ranging from 18-65+. We are an active group sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal victories, and food. Our page is full of discussion posts and we typically have a weekly video hangout on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us. Search WELS Singles on facebook.

Little Mermaid Jr. Tickets for the *Little Mermaid Jr.* are on sale at the Schauer Center, and are selling fast! Showtimes are **April 22** at 7 pm and **April 23** at 2 pm. Come see the talented and energetic 5th-8th graders of Peace Lutheran (Hartford) as they present this classic musical. It's appropriate for all ages! Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$8 for children.

Camp Phillip Summer Camps It's never too early to consider registering your child(ren) for one of the many camps at Camp Phillip in Wautoma this summer. In fact, early registration already began on February 1st.

Camp Phillip serves thousands of people each year by providing a safe, fun, and memorable atmosphere to gather around God's Word for spiritual growth. Songs, games, campfires, creative activities, fun at the lake, amazing friends...all contribute to a memorable and spiritually uplifting time in God's beautiful creation.

A classic camp experience can be had at the Son Shine or Son Rise camps.



In addition, there are many specialty camps to choose from, such as archery, art, horseback riding, fishing, camping, even culinary arts. The one thing in common for all of them is that *they fill up fast!* Grab a Camp Phillip postcard from the cabinets in the entryway or go online to www.campphillip.com to register or for more information.

Discover the opportunities for your children to grow in faith and enjoy God's creation!

Camp Bird for Lutherans There's another summer camp in Northeast Wisconsin that serves kids from 5th – 8th grade (2021-2022 school year). It is located near Crivitz in Marinette County on Sand Lake. The camp

includes Bible study and devotions, Christian fellowship, nature hikes, crafts, great meals, archery, sports, boating, swimming, canoeing, ropes course, campfires and more...

Registration information and forms are available now by visiting www.campbird.org. Register with your friends and be in the same cabin. You may send in your registration form at any time. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Cost for the first child is \$175.00 a week, second child in the family is \$135.00.

Three weeks are available in July:

*Sunday July 3 – Friday, July 8

*Sunday July 10 – Friday, July 15

*Sunday July 17 – Friday, July 22

Help Wanted St. Paul Little Learners in Slinger is currently accepting applications for reliable people to work a flexible part/full-time schedule as teachers in our childcare. Applicants should be over the age of 18 and have a background in education or be willing to take classes. No nights or weekends! Come join an awesome state licensed, 5-Star childcare and work with wonderful, caring people! Contact Lisa Meissner if you would like more information at 262-644-8295 ext. 1 or littlelearners@stpaulslinger.org.

