



*See Pastor's*

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# THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Pastor Donavon W. (Bill) Heithold, Jr.  
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E-mail: [tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com](mailto:tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com)  
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Divine Service 10:15 AM



**APRIL 2019**

**VOLUME 56 No. 4**

## FROM THE PASTOR

1Cor. 15:1-9 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

On the front of this Trinitarian is a picture you might have notice on the wall outside my office. It is titled “RESURRECTION” But what do you see? One of those pictures where you need to have your eyes bug out of your head and focus in such a way that things move and a scene forms that was always there but was hidden for some who couldn’t get their eyes to see what was right there in front of them.

I have some books by Lee Strobel, *“The case for Christ”*, *“The case for Faith”*, and a short one, *“The case for Easter”*. In this last book, Lee, an investigative Journalist who was an atheist but went looking for the truth found the truth for Easter by searching for the truth in three questions he had about Easter.

He had three questions: 1) Was Jesus really dead after His ordeal on the cross? 2) Was His tomb actually empty on that first Easter morning? and 3) Did credible people subsequently encounter Him?

He went to experts in for each question. The first was a doctor who provided medical evidence that Jesus had to be dead when He was removed from the cross. Spear through the lungs and heart, Roman threat with their own death if He wasn’t and would the disciples have hailed Jesus, who would have had to have been nursed back to heal as a victorious conquerer of death?

Second, he went a man who has spent his life writing about and studying the resurrection. He points out how Jesus was placed in a tomb but then was missing as attested to by not only His disciples but by others who claimed the soldiers fell asleep and the disciples stole the body.

Third, he wondered about sightings of Jesus, after the resurrection. The man he visited pointed out all the passages that tell of sightings and how it was so soon after the death

of Jesus that there would be many who were still alive (see above) that there were many there to refute it if it wasn't so.

We believe and trust His Word as true.

Pastor

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### **ELDERS ARTICLE**

Last week, I ran into a man at the city dump. As we were emptying our trucks of debris, we began to converse about the sorry state of this country's political environment. We both lamented the lack of cohesion among our fellow citizens about various issues, late term abortion, illegal immigration and rampant criminality at the local, state and national levels. As the conversation regressed into a melancholy longing for the "good old days" of our youth, it became evident to both of us that there was only one solution to the problems facing this nation.

Almost in unison, we both exclaimed, Only GOD can fix this nation. We chuckled about our simultaneous exhortation. He then explained to me how throughout his life he was able to get through tough times due to his faith in GOD and the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST. He was raised in a Christian home. He married a woman who professed to be a Christian and was able to be there for the birth of his daughter before shipping out to Vietnam. He sought solace of the LORD throughout his tour in Vietnam and looked forward to being re-united with his family. He became very sober when he described his return to the states. His wife met him at the airport looking like a

vagrant hippie, She immediately told him that she had filed for divorce and was in love with her boyfriend. The one year old daughter looked as if she had not been bathed for some time and was in raggedy clothing. When he tried to intervene to get his daughter from her she produced a restraining order against him.

She left with the daughter and he was devastated. He said he was in the "twilight zone" for quite some time and returned to Colorado to live with his parents. It was there that he renewed his faith in GOD. His return to faith enabled him to find another truly Christian woman and navigate the myriad of problems associated with gaining custody of his daughter. He attributed the good fortune of marrying this woman to GOD'S intervention in his life. They went on to have seven more children together, and made a very good life for themselves thanks to their faith in the LORD.

This man's story of his Faith in GOD and the impact it has on his life caused me to look around and find other examples of Faith in the LORD, closer to home. In our congregation at Trinity one example of faith is Cheryl Sandenaw. For two years, she worked to put together the Bob Lenz ministry. Every time she spoke of it to us she stated that her faith in GOD's divine intervention would cause this event to take place.

Another example is Nora Sotak. She underwent surgery on both knees at the same time. Her belief that GOD will enable her to heal and be as good as new is a testament to her strong Faith in GOD.

We can look around ourselves and see many other examples of strong faith in GOD to guide us in our daily lives.

We have the opportunity to strengthen our faith as we observe Easter. Our faith is renewed by the living CHRIST who died for our sins to be forgiven and his glorious resurrection to insure our eternal life if we only repent, be baptized in the Holy Work and believe in Him as our only true SAVIOR

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors met on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that the elders continue reviewing member attendance. They are actively attempting to contact delinquent members to encourage them to return to regular church attendance. Letters to members still in their church mailboxes will be removed and mailed to the member.

A suggestion was made that we sing the communion songs without the organ interlude between verses. After discussion the elders and Pastor agreed that the interlude is valuable to give members a moment to reflect on the sacrament they just received before they begin to sing again.

The discussion on possible uses of "the back forty" was brought up one suggestion was to build an RV park, another was to build a retirement home on the property. Both ideas need further study.

The elders asked that they be notified any

time you have a need for care, i. e. hospitalized, need transportation, etc.

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, reported total income for February was \$20,389.00. Special fund giving totaled \$4,588.00 leaving a general fund balance of \$15,801.00.

Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in February by \$1,383.83. General Income was \$15,801.00 and Expenses were \$(14,417.17).

Lisa Collins, Evangelism Chair, read an after-action report from Cheryl Sandenaw on the Bob Lenz program. (see the report elsewhere in this issue of the Trinitarian) Lisa thanks Cheryl and everyone who helped get the program to Alamogordo.

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair, reported: The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for the outstanding support of the Potato Bar Lunch. The youth from Las Cruces are not able to make the Higher Things conference this year. The Youth plans to host the Easter Breakfast again this year. VBS: We are reviewing the Concordia and Higher Things VBS packages and will decide soon which one we will go with. We will also nail down a date for VBS.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chair, reported that the trustees completed refinishing several of interior doors in the church. The hope is that the professional organ tuner still plans to be here early next month to give us an estimate for repair and tuning of our pipe organ. The recent wind storm caused some damage to the metal edging along the upper roof in the back of the

great room. We are currently evaluating how to have this repaired. Progress is being made on the network and computer upgrades. (see the report elsewhere in this issue of the Trinitarian) Last month, February, Jim Wilkes brought up the issues of locking the entryway doors once worship services have started. After some discussion, the board moved to convene a congregation meeting to revisit the issue. The meeting held after church on March 17<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Jim Wilkes to cease locking the main entrance doors during church services; seconded by Matt Clark. After discussion a vote, by show of hands was taken. Forty-nine voted in favor of not locking the doors; eight voted to continue locking the doors.

During the New Business portion of the meeting the BOD voted to donate \$100.00, as requested by LCEF, to the Labors For Christ organization.

The BOD voted to cancel the meeting for April because it falls on Maundy Thursday.

Bob Klose,  
President

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### **COMPUTER NETWORK UPGRADE STATUS**

The first phase of the upgrade for the church's wifi network and computer system is complete. Rentschler Electronics installed the wiring and Francisco Ramirez installed the equipment to give our church two new wifi networks. One network is dedicated the church administration; which is not available to the

public. The second is a guest network, TLC\_Guest1, which is available to the public. The password for this network can be obtained from Jan or Bob Thede, Bob Klose or Pastor Heithold; if you know the password and another member asks it is permissible to give it to them.

The next phase of the upgrade will be the purchase of two computers, a laptop with docking station and a desktop. These will replace the computer in the secretary and Sunday school offices.

The entire project is being paid for with memorial funds received in Daro Ableidinger's name.

Bob Klose,  
Congregation President

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### **LET LAUGHTER 'SPRING' FORTH**

- "Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush." (*Doug Larson*)
- "Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket." (*Evan Esar*)
- "Spring is the time of the year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade" (*Charles Dickens*)
- "The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful." (*e.e. cummings*)
- "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." (*Margaret Atwood*)

## EVANGELISM

I want to thank Cheryl Sandenaw again for such a wonderful job bringing Bob Lenz in for our schools and the youth of our community. This was something that was outside of the normal purview of our church; as *good* Lutherans we like to keep things low-key and traditional (insert laughter at ourselves here). However, the message Bob had for the kids during the day was not overtly spiritual and still had its basis deep in the roots of God's love for each of us and this was then brought into focus during the evening presentation. I think we can learn from that in our daily lives and in the outreach we do here at church as a whole. Showing Christ's love for others in our daily interactions, giving them respect as a creation of our Father, and treating everyone with dignity whom we come into contact with will show everyone they are worthwhile and loved. Also, we can remember that there is no one way to present the gospel and it is ok to step outside of our comfort zone in order to share the joy of the Lord.

Lisa Collins,  
Evangelism Chair

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## FOR THE LOVE OF US

As Christ drew near to death, He Himself trembled. It was an experience of all His creation, but He had never felt it. To His humanity, His assumed flesh, it seemed terrible—Gethsemane bears witness [to] how terrible it seemed; but He passed into it for love of us.

—*Phillip Brooks*

## TRUSTEE

We have finished replacing interior doors in the church. We still plan to paint the exterior doors. We are now working on renovating the flower bed in the front of the church.

The recent wind storm caused some damage to the metal edging along the upper roof in the back of the great room. We are currently evaluating how to have this repaired.

We have not heard any more from the organ tuner. We are still expecting him to be here early in April.

We are working at upgrading the church's computers and computer network using funds provided by the Ableidinger memorial. Rentschler Electric has installed wiring so that the network will cover the entire building. Routers and switches for this have been obtained. Francisco, our computer consultant, has connected this equipment which provides us with new networks. We have not yet gotten new computers but are planning on getting one desktop and one laptop with a docking port. Francisco will install the new computers when we are ready for them.

Bob Thede,  
Trustee Chairman

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## THE GREATEST ORNAMENT

"The church knew what the psalmist knew; Music praises God. Music is as well, or better, able to praise Him than the building of a church and all its decorations; it is the church's greatest ornament."

—*Igor Stravinsky*

### **BOB LENZ REPORT**

The Bob Lenz event came to fruition on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>. The first event was at Chaparral Middle School from 9 am – 10 am for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> graders (about 700 students). The second event was at the High School gym for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders (also about 700 students). The opening act for both events was physical magician Ardan Jamez. Ardan was fun and funny. The kids loved him. After Arden, Bob Lenz came out to speak to the students. He told the students true stories in ways they could relate to and understand, about things he had experienced. Stories about things like child abuse, bullying, and discrimination. His manner of speaking was sometimes funny, and frequently serious. At those times you could hear a pin drop in both gyms. The message he brought to the students is that everyone has value, everyone should have courage, and that everyone deserves respect. He encouraged each student to join in his efforts to have a “Dignity Revolution” for all.

The feedback from teachers and school administrators at both schools was very positive. The feedback from students was also very positive. In fact, the high school principal was so impressed that he wants very much to have Bob Lenz back to do his in-depth class room outreach with the students. One thing is for sure, the students definitely got something of value to think about in their day to day lives, and Bob did his best to ingrain it permanently in their minds.

The evening event began at 7 pm and was open to the public. It was a Christ centered event.

While both Arden and Bob’s presentations were different, they were still fun and funny at times and completely appropriate for the subject matter. It seemed that there were indeed some kids and adults that heard what was said and wanted to become a part of it. I hope and pray they seek out & find church homes. There was approximately 230 kids (mostly kids) and adults at the evening event. Who knows how many of those heard about Jesus for the first time that night? Seeds were planted. Let’s pray that those seeds will grow.

We were very blessed to have the pizzas for this event donated by Domino’s. We also got a nice discount for the motel rooms from the Magnuson. In addition, KFC gave us a 10% discount for the lunch we provided for Bob’s crew and our volunteers. The Down Town Lions provided our evening meal. In addition we received a \$3,500 donation of funds from Twice Blessed Thrift Shop.

Yours in Christ,  
Cheryl Sandenaw, Bob Lenz Chairman

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### **EVIDENCE**

I see a sermon in a stone,  
A lesson in each patterned leaf;  
And everywhere I look, I find  
Some proof or reason for belief.

This resurrection is portrayed  
In each new blade that breaks the sod;  
One breath is miracle enough  
To prove the certainty of God.

*M. Kathleen Haley*

## LWML

*LWML continues to be a Leading force in Missions and Ministry around the world through their gifts of Mites, Tithes, Offerings, and Tireless Service. The work these Lutheran Women In Mission reaches people of all walks of life, **domestic** and **foreign**, in the Interest of the advance of witness, mercy, & life Together for all those who are loved into Life Through the death and resurrection of our Jesus Christ. Countless millions have been reached and saved a live for Christ through this ministry; and in these last days, we Pray that their Grace-filled, faithful labor in sacrifices, offerings, and service may rise in favor to our Lord.*

### **2017—2019 LWML MISSION GOAL**

Mission Goal for 2017-2019: \$2,075,000.00

Amount Received: \$2,045000.00 (As of 3/20/19) - Praising our Lord!!

1. **Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children; Mercy Meals of Siouxland - \$40,000** Jesus gives the same command today, to feed the hungry, that He gave His disciples. Mercy Meals of Siouxland, a ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa, began packaging fortified rice/soy meals in 2012. Mercy Meals donates all packaged meals to Orphan Grain Train for transportation and delivery to Christian organizations in many countries, including India, Haiti, Romania, and Ecuador, as well as to Navajo reservations in the Southwest and Ysleta Mission in El Paso, Texas. Children and families receive food and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An LWML grant will feed from 50,000 to 75,000 hungry children.

## **2018-2020 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LWML**

**Mission Goal \$82,314**

1. **Intern Serving on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico Grant Amount - \$9,600**

Our LWML RMD has, for more than one biennium, supported Pr. Norton in his studies as he prepared for the ministry and vicarage (he now is an ordained pastor) at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. His work with the native Navajo people there has been blessed with growth. A Concordia student who recently finished a short term missionary trip to the reservation sums up the ministry there: "... my vocation as a missionary is not to change the culture I am working with to better fit the Christianity I am bringing. My vocation is, therefore, to usher forth a Christianity within their culture. It is to allow God's work to continue, for He was working in the culture before I arrived, and will continue to do so after I have left." The grant would provide funds for an intern to assist Pr. Tim to more effectively serve the Navajo community in bringing the Gospel to them.

### **CONVENTION — June 20-24**

Today, I extend an invitation to you to join the many thousands, "In Praise to the LORD!" as we worship together, Thursday evening, June 20, 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. Imagine – hearing 3,000+ singing praise songs, and 250 pastors serving communion, and the fellowship shared during these 3 days. Please take the opportunity to join in praising the Lord. Visit [www.lwml.org/2019-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2019-convention) for more information.

**NEXT SOCIETY MEETING AT TRINITY  
WILL BE ON SATURDAY,  
APRIL 13TH, 10:00 A.M.**

Please be praying for our societies LWML who is in need of ladies stepping up to serve as Vice President and Secretary. It takes us **ALL** to help serve our Lord. Elections will be at this meeting. Please see Yvonne, Nora, or Belinda if you will consider running for an office.

At this meeting we'll also be assembling the "Love Boxes" for our college students and our military Personnel whose names have been submitted. If you have someone you would like to receive one of these boxes please see Belinda or Yvonne. We need addresses. Have your donations for these boxes to the church by 10a.m. Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Information is on bulletin board in narthex.

**APPRECIATION—THANK YOU!!**

We thank everyone who contributed to our monthly Mission Mite Challenges. Your donations **DO MAKE A Difference!** We are almost to the monetary goals for National LWML. The March mission challenge for coffee was successfully delivered to serve the homeless here in Alamogordo.

We Thank our Pastor for serving as our LWML Zone Counselor, AND driving a bunch of women to Fall Rallies and Spring Workshops. We appreciate you Pastor Bill for your support!! Thank you!!

Yvonne Steeby,  
LWML President

**APRIL YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**April 20, 9:00 am**—Meet at church to set up for Easter Breakfast

**April 21** between Easter services—Youth hosted Easter Breakfast

Following the 10:15 a.m. service all youth, ages infant to 10 years old are invited to an Easter egg hunt on the front lawn of Church.

Cindi Anderson, Education chair

Jill Clark

Stacy Johnson

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The youth of Trinity invite you to attend our Easter breakfast. Menu is as follows:

**EASTER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast served after Sunrise Service until 9:45 a.m.

Breakfast casseroles, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee

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**MIRTH UPON THE EARTH**

On April 1, you may well have a joke or two played on you. If so, enjoy the moment. Laugh, even if the joke is on you.

Christians have great cause for laughter on a daily basis. We can laugh because we know that no matter how much tragedy we see or may suffer personally, we have the assurance that God can turn it all around and bring great good out of evil.

The proof of that of Christians, is Jesus' resurrection.

———*Charles Ferrell*

## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to the following people (hopefully none left out) for their valuable help with the Bob Lenz project.

Abby Anderson  
Ben Clark  
Bob Klose  
Cindi Anderson  
Cyndi Heithold  
David Nohe - Bethel Baptist Church  
Dick Dommers  
Eddie Beagles - Grace Methodist Church  
Emily Johnson  
Gerald Moore  
Hannah Keeler  
Heidi Reed  
Jack McCastle  
Jill Clark  
Jim Wilkes  
Kelly Thomas  
Lisa Collins  
Lola Ableidinger  
Matt Clark  
Pastor Heithold  
Ray Bailey  
Rebekah Clark  
Ruth Wilkes  
Several Volunteers from Cottonwood  
Christian Fellowship  
Stacy Johnson  
Susan Weitzel  
Terry Marquardt  
Trey Johnson  
Vicki Leonard

Cheryl Sandenaw, Bob Lenz event chair

## **YOU ARE INVITED To the**

Senior Recital for Bobby Anderson  
Sunday, April 28th at 7:30 PM  
NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall  
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Everyone is invited to attend this special recital for Bobby. He will be completing his student teaching assignment in the fall and graduate in December from NMSU with his Bachelor of Music Education degree.

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## **THANK YOU**

Thanks! Thanks for the gift of your love and your prayers. We have an awesome God and an awesome congregation. I loved the cards I received and the little waves at me while I sat in the cryroom before church and especially your prayers to God, our great physician, on my behalf. May the Lord continue to bless our congregation. Nora Sotak

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## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to all my Trinity family for the lovely cards and birthday wishes I received last Sunday and also to Heather Patrick for the beautiful (and delicious) cake! I am truly blessed.

Sandy Krueger

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Easter is the great proclamation and promise of God that nothing can overcome God's love, not even the murder of the Son of God.

—Charles Ferrell

## HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

We will have a highway clean up on Saturday, April 6th. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. just west of White Sands National Monument at mile marker 199 where Trinity's sign is. The standard instructions apply: Wear long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Have water and gloves. If we get enough people there, the clean up won't take very long. Any questions or concerns, see Hannah Keeler. Thanks!

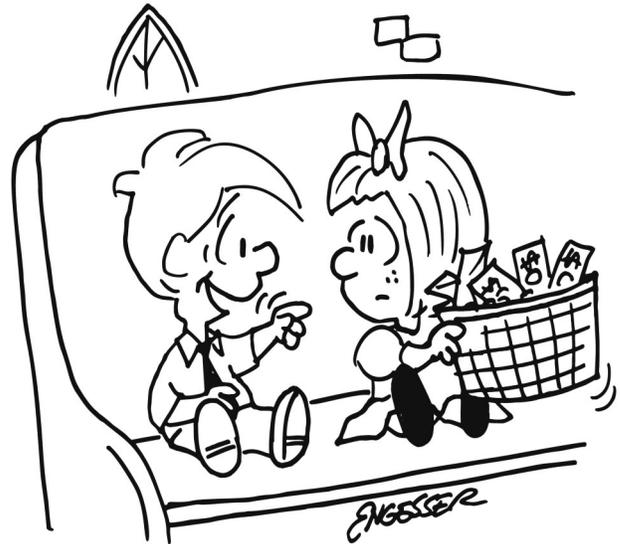
## WE NEED LOTS OF HELP!!!!

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"Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

—Author Unknown



"I put in a jelly bean for pastor."

# March 2019 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

## **ELDERS**

April 3 Jim Wilkes (Midweek)  
April 7 Ray Bailey  
April 10 Ray Bailey  
April 14 Matt Clark  
April 18 Matt Clark (Maundy Thursday)  
April 19 Robert Rentschler (Good Friday)  
April 21 Jim Wilkes (Easter Sunday)  
April 28 Jim Wilkes

## **ACOLYTES**

April 3 Morgan Sebring (Midweek)  
April 7 Abby Anderson  
April 10 Miriam Collins (Midweek)  
April 14 Emily Johnson  
April 18 Abby Anderson (Maundy Thursday)  
April 21 Reilly Quinn (Easter Sunday)  
April 28 Zac Sanchez

## **USHERS**

April 7 Tom Blackmon, Susan Weitzel  
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn,  
April 14 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,  
John Marquardt  
April 21 Ben Clark, Trey Johnson  
Robert Johnson, Ray Krueger  
April 28 Bob Klose, Sandy Klose,  
Gerald Moore

## **HOSTS**

April 7 Collins Family  
April 14 Bob & Jan Thede  
April 21 Ed Schelter & Susan Weitzel  
April 28 Becky & Margaret Worley

## **APRIL ATTENDANCE**

Cheryl Sandenaw

## **READERS**

April 3 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn (Midweek)  
April 7 Bob & Sandy Klose  
April 10 Louis Maurriot & Kelly Thomas  
April 14 George & Marianne Schweers  
April 18 Cheryl Sandenaw & Cheryl Richey  
(Maundy Thursday)  
April 19 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn  
(Good Friday)  
April 21 Matt Anderson & Mary Leslie Schmitt  
(Easter Sunday)  
April 28 Susan Weitzel & Vicki Leonard

## **TELLERS**

April 3 Shirley Enyeart & Pete Simank  
(Midweek)  
April 7 Lola Ableidinger & Joyce Macon  
April 10 Nora Sotak/Kelly Thomas (Midweek)  
April 14 Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby  
April 18 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Luevano  
(Maundy Thursday)  
April 19 Bob Klose & Megan Bowman  
(Good Friday)  
April 21 Linde Van Cleave & Cheryl Sandenaw  
(Easter Sunday)  
April 28 Lola Ableidinger & Joyce Macon

## **APRIL ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Cheryl Richey  
Beverly Van Duyn

## **APRIL FLOWERS**

April 7 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn  
Marvin & Joyce Bunker  
April 14 Barbara Bruning  
Pastor & Lisa Cramm  
April 21 Rick & Nora Sotak (Easter Sunday)  
April 28 Ray & Juli Bailey