

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

May 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Recently a survey was conducted that asked people in the United States to name their most popular holidays. It probably won't surprise you that Christmas was the top pick, while the second most popular holiday named was Halloween. Third on the list was the 4th of July, and the fourth most popular holiday was Thanksgiving. And then – ranking a lowly fifth on this survey list – was Easter. From what I could tell this was not exactly what we would call a rigorous scientific study, but even so I think it does say something about what people in America think about Easter. Or perhaps it would be better to state it this way: the survey seems to say a lot about what people *don't think* about Easter.

As is true of Christmas, Easter is one of those Christian holidays that seemingly has been hijacked by worldly commercial interests. Turn on your television and you'll probably see Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail or some other similar cartoon. A few weeks ago the most popular movie in America was a comedy about the Easter bunny, a movie entitled "Hop." When you go to Walgreen's or Wal-Mart you'll find all sorts of Easter candy – chocolate eggs and bunnies, Cadbury eggs, Peeps, jelly beans, pastel M&M's and much more. If you look very hard you might just find some chocolate that has been formed in the shape of a cross, but your choices here will be far more limited. Even though Easter ranks only fifth in popularity as a holiday, it ranks first among *all* holidays for candy sales.

Now I'm not saying that there's anything wrong with enjoying Easter candy – I've eaten more than my share of jelly beans in the past few weeks – nor is there anything wrong with enjoying fictional stories about the Easter bunny. But Easter candy and cartoons will never – I repeat, never – convey the true meaning of why Christians of all times and places celebrate Easter.

Easter Sunday is, quite frankly, the most important day of our salvation. If Jesus had not been resurrected from the dead, His victory over sin and death would have been incomplete. If Jesus had not been resurrected from the dead, then His birth and His teachings and His miracles and His suffering and His death would ultimately have been meaningless. If Jesus had not been resurrected from the dead, then *we* would have no hope of resurrection, either. We would have no hope of eternity in heaven with our God. Instead, we would have only the certainty of eternal death in the fires and torments of hell. As the great Easter hymn "This Joyful Eastertide" so jubilantly proclaims:

Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!

Pastor O'Brien

This month's Good News newsletter is noticeably shorter than previous issues. Amidst all of the planning and preparation for our Holy Week and Easter worship services, as well as time unexpectedly spent drying out the Church basement following the recent downpours, there simply wasn't enough time to complete a full newsletter and get it in your hands on schedule. Thanks for your understanding!

Congratulations

... to all members of St. Paul Lutheran Church who are celebrating birthdays or wedding anniversaries during the month of May. Please send any additions or correction to Barb Turner in the Church Office.



May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Viola Armstrong | 15 | Joann Lower |
| 4 | Jeff Bockewitz | 19 | Alice Bockewitz |
| 7 | Justin Matthews | 25 | Roger Waddington |
| 7 | Deborah Small | 27 | Amanda Banning |
| 9 | Samantha Blaney | 27 | Helen Miles |
| 12 | Florence Cravens | 27 | Beverly Stone |
| 13 | Gabrielle Bingaman | 30 | David Allen |
| 14 | Lori Ambrose | 31 | Carolyn Koons |
| 15 | Selma Horton | 31 | Sharon O'Brien |

May Anniversaries



- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Bob and Betty Grotts | (15 th anniversary) |
| 6 | Terry and Sue Davis | (33 rd anniversary) |
| 23 | Jim and Barb Turner | (52 nd anniversary) |



Serving Our Lord in His House during May

Communion Assistant: Jason Simac

Elder on Duty: Dr. Joe Marcin

Altar Guild: Dodie Lees, Carol Wilcox

Acolytes:

May 1: Allison Kresin, Josh Simac
May 8: Christa Bingaman, Anna Simac
May 15: Mackenzie Bingaman, Josh Simac
May 22: Christa Bingaman, Allison Kresin
May 29: Mackenzie Bingaman, Anna Simac

Ushers:

Adam Cross, Head Usher
May 1: Jerry Stone, Wayne Miller
May 8: Lynn Bishop, Bill Farr
May 15: Tom Bingaman, Bill Merrifield
May 22: Dave Allen, Jim Turner
May 29: John Livesay, Mark Miller

Greeters:

May 1: Diane Hildebrand, Selma Horton
May 8: Carolyn Koons, Sharon O'Brien
May 15: Carol Schramm, Judy Schramm
May 22: LouAnn Horsley, Kellie Smith
May 29: Joyce Farr, Cindy Schmitz

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Junior Confirmation	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 6:30 Bible Class 7:30 Adult Instruction Class	<i>4</i> 9:00 Bible Class	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Regional Youth Gathering, Lincoln, Illinois
<i>8</i> 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Junior Confirmation	<i>9</i> 6:30 Elders Meeting 7:30 Church Council Meeting	<i>10</i> 6:30 Bible Class 7:30 Adult Instruction Class	<i>11</i> 9:00 Bible Class	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Junior Confirmation	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 6:30 Bible Class 7:30 Adult Instruction Class	<i>18</i> 9:00 Bible Class	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Junior Confirmation	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 6:30 Bible Class 7:30 Adult Instruction Class	<i>25</i> 9:00 Bible Class	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 9:00 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service 11:30 Junior Confirmation	<i>30</i> Memorial Day	<i>31</i> 6:30 Bible Class 7:30 Adult Instruction Class				

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Monthly newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Good News!

St. Paul Lutheran Church
208 E. Fourth Street
Pana, IL 62557

