

April Newsletter 2024

The joyous celebration of Easter on March 31 this year marks the month of April as a time to remember life with the risen Savior. Ascension – 40 days after Easter lands on May 9th. April leads us through the eyewitness accounts of the disciples and points us to faith in Jesus. Even though the Lord said He would rise on the third day, and even though the women went to tell the disciples, including Peter, that Jesus was alive, the disciples still hid in fear. They hid from those that wanted to persecute them because of their faith in Jesus. They hid because they could not believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that if Christ had not risen from the dead, our faith would be in vain. The resurrection is vitally important. Just as Jesus suffered, was crucified, and buried in the tomb for the forgiveness of sins, so His resurrection brings victory over death that no longer carries with it the eternal consequences of our sins. The resurrection of our Lord brings life, life eternal, to all who believe. Thomas needed to see and feel the marks of our Lord to prove that Jesus was not just some charlatan. Jesus fulfilled the work He came to do by laying down His life and taking it back up again. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

We will continue in the Gospel of John and learn of our Good Shepherd. We will learn of the one that leads His people, His sheep, to pastures green amidst the trials and tribulations of sin in our lives. Christians are those that hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow Him. We will read how sorrow turns to joy and begin again to read what the joys of eternity will be like and are like for those who believe in Jesus. We will read how God sends the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin and bring judgement upon those that do not believe in Jesus. John testifies about Jesus and the peace he brings even amidst the tribulation in the world. All this before our Lord ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus has accomplished your salvation. He prepares once again for life in the world that is lived out in faith, faith focused on the cross, on Jesus, on His work, not ours.

Pastor Ficken