



# ALC Connections April 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

## The Discipleship Chat

### *He Rose*

It makes all the difference in the world. Many religions have a founder/leader who gave what they consider to be good teachings, and led peaceful lives. But only one has a leader who actually rose from the dead.

And He didn't actually come to *found* anything or start anything. It was started way back in the beginning of the world (Genesis 3). Jesus came to **redeem**, to **atone**, to **reconcile** ... to **save**.

To **redeem**: He came to "*buy back*" a sinful race of humans who had rebelled and fell under God's judgment.

To **atone**: He had to pay *in full* the penalty of the sin of all. He could leave no part of the penalty unpaid. The measure of God's justice in punishing sin had to be satisfied totally.

To **reconcile**: Sin had alienated man from God. God did not move away; man did. Man's sin built the barriers between man and God. Jesus came to bring both together. However, since they were not equals, man must be brought back to God. Man's sin, offensive to a holy and just God, must somehow be removed, or dealt with. Because Jesus paid for it in full, He could bring man, forgiven, back into fellowship with God.

To **save**: to summarize the above – humanity is lost in sin, and deserving of God's eternal punishment. Jesus paid it all. To those who believe in Jesus as their Savior (and confess their sin, and seek to leave it), God gives full forgiveness of their sin, fills them with His Spirit which gives us the power to receive Him, believe in Him, and live as His children, and makes them His own dearly beloved, blood-bought children.

As we know so well (John 3:16):  
*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) should not perish, but have eternal life."*

Without the resurrection, Jesus was just a good man who was cut short and executed. But with the resurrection, Jesus "... was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead ... through Him and for His name's sake, we received grace..." (Rom 1:4)

St Paul said, "*If Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain (1 Cor 15:14) ... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*"

Jesus' resurrection shows us that God has accepted His offering of His life as the sacrifice for the full penalty and payment of the sins of mankind.

"Because I live, you shall live also." (Jesus – John 14:19) That's all the proof we need – Jesus' resurrection.

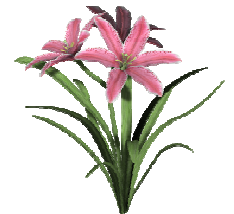
He is risen! He is risen indeed!!

I hope you all have a most blessed Easter.

Pastor Dave

## HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday worship in Church @ 7 pm  
Good Friday: 1 pm (Chapel) and 7 pm (Church)  
Easter Sunday: 8:30 Easter Breakfast begins  
10 am Worship the Resurrection of Jesus!



Soup Kitchen – Sat April 11  
Council meeting Sun April 19 after Church  
Voters mtg Sun April 26 after Church  
LWML Zone Rally – Sat May 2 @ St Matthew, Holt. Presentation on K-9 Comfort dogs.

### April Voters' Assembly

Plan to attend the regular Voters' Assembly after our worship service on April 26. Everyone is welcome, encouraged to attend. Take this opportunity to be updated, involved in what's happening at Ascension. Via e-mail, you should receive an agenda prior to the meeting. We plan to discuss what facility improvements/repairs need to be done this year and how we can encourage stewardship of our time, talents, and resources. We will, also, introduce a planning process to better articulate our goals and objectives for our mission, "Building the Body of Christ — One by One through grace, worship, fellowship, praise, spiritual growth and service to others."



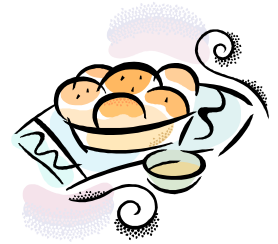


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**Soup Kitchen Sign-up.** The sign-up sheet for helping with the Christ Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen is in the Narthex. We need at least 12 volunteers to commit to work from 9am to 1 pm on Saturday, April 11.

Don't forget the **Easter Breakfast** on April 5th from 8:30am to 9:30am!



The **Women's Venue for April** will be on Thursday, April 16 at Buddies Pub and Grill, 1937 W. Grand River, Okemos, at 6 pm. Hope you can join us. **Men's Venue** will be Tuesday, April 21, 6pm @ Leo's Outpost at Grand River & Okemos Road.



Ladies, mark your MAY calendar for Saturday, May 2. The LWML [Lutheran Women's Missionary League] Spring Rally will be held at St. Matthew's church in Holt. The keynote speaker will talk on K-9 comfort dogs. This event is open to all women. Details to follow; save the date.

**Thank you** to everyone who came and supported our Thirty One Bags fundraiser. We raised \$360 towards the furniture fund. \$200 had been donated all ready, so a total of \$560 has currently been raised for this project. Thank you everyone!

**Thank you** to all who helped in any way for *Wanda's* funeral, set up, food and clean up. -Parish Activities Committee

**Join the Parish Activities Committee!!** Please join and help plan activities for the congregation to take part in. We are looking for some new ideas and could use your help. Parish Activities encourages all member to take part in any activity, large or small. Lately the committee has taken over the responsibility of funerals held at the church for Women of Ascension. Call Linda or Beth with questions.

The Chapel is open for Prayer Saturday April 4th from 10:30 am until noon, staffed with a Church Elder. Feel free to drop in and spend some time in prayer, either by yourself, or someone will be glad to pray with you.

