

## Why is Easter Important?

The real physical resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning 2000 years ago is one of those events that is “of first importance” (1 Cor. 15:3) for us and for our salvation. To understand just how important the Resurrection of Christ is, consider for a moment what life would be like if Christ had not been raised. If Christ had died on the cross and then been buried and not risen from the dead, then that could mean at least three things.

First, it could mean that He had not really lived a perfect life but had Himself sinned. That would mean that His death was the punishment for His own sin. Like all other sinners, He would remain dead. He would need a savior to perfectly fulfill the Law in His place and pay for His sins. And that would mean that He didn’t die for our sins. That would mean that we are still in our sins.

Second, if Jesus had not been raised, that could mean that He had not fully paid for sins on the cross. If He had died with all the sins of the world upon Himself and not been raised, then perhaps those sins were just too much for Him to cover. And that would mean that we are still in our sins.

Third, if Jesus had died and been buried and not been raised, that would make Jesus a liar. He had said that He would rise on the third day. If He had not risen, then it would prove that He cannot or would not keep His Word. It would also mean that we couldn’t really trust what He says, especially when He says, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”** (John 11:25-26a). And if Jesus lied about His resurrection, then we are still in our sins.

## April 2023 News



But Christ has been raised. This means that He did indeed live a perfect life and does not need to stay dead because of His own sin (as happens to sinful human beings). He does not need someone else to perfectly fulfill the Law in His place and pay for His sins. He perfectly fulfilled the Law in our place; the death He suffered was not a payment for His sins but for ours.

The Resurrection means that when Christ took on the sins of the whole world, He finished paying for them all. Jesus was fully punished for all sin of every person in the world on the cross. Since He paid for all sin, then He did not need to remain in death, which is the punishment for sin.

And the resurrection of Jesus proves that what He says is true. He had promised to rise from the dead after His death and He did. He predicted the future and He was right. He made a promise about the future, and He fulfilled His promises. We can trust that He will fulfill all of His other promises, including His promise of new life and resurrection. As Christ promises in John 6:40, **“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”** Even when we face death, we can look to the Resurrection of our Lord and rejoice that He has paid for sin and that He does indeed fulfill His promises.

. – Pastor Burfiend

**April 2 Training for the Stripping Of the Altar on Maundy Thursday** – All women interested in participating, please meet in the sanctuary after the Palm Sunday Divine Service.

**Easter Vigil** – Please join us on Saturday, April 8 at 7 pm as we hold our own Easter Vigil service for the first time and see our Lord give two people (Christina and Owen Book) new birth in Holy Baptism.

**Coffee cake, baked goods, and fresh fruit** are needed for the Easter Breakfast. Please sign up in the gym.

**Sunday School Teachers** are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the gym.

**Preschool Fundraiser** – Join preschool families on April 20 from 5:30 to 7 for a program and dinner in support of our preschool.

**Game Night April 21** - Bring your favorite game and a snack to share!

**Celebrate Christ’s Ascension** – Join us for a Divine service on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 pm (the Eve of the Ascension of Our Lord).

**May 19-20 Rummage Sale** sponsored by the Mary Martha Guild. Watch the bulletin for more information.

**Greeters Needed!** Please sign up in the gym if you are willing to greet members and visitors at the main doors. This provides a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors and help them navigate a new church.

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**APRIL 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2 Palm Sunday</b> John 12:12-19 Zech. 9:9-12 Phil. 2:5-11 Matt. 26:1-27:66 Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> M. Thurs. Training, 11:30</p>				<p><b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> <u>Holy Communion</u> Service at 7:00pm Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Psalm 22</p>	<p><b>7 Good Friday</b> Service at 7:00pm Is. 52:13-53:12 2 Cor. 5:14-21 John 18:1-19:42 <b>FOR + YOU</b></p>	<p><b>8 Easter Vigil</b> Service at 7:00 pm Genesis 1-2 Genesis 7-9 Exodus 14-15</p>
<p><b>9 The Resurrection of Our Lord</b> <b>Services: 7 and 10 am</b> <u>Job 19:23-27</u> 1 Cor. 5:6-8 Mark 16:1-8 Easter Breakfast 8:30</p>			<p><b>12</b> 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> Mary Martha Meeting, 10 am  Men's Gathering, Seymour, IN</p>	<p><b>15</b>  Men's Gathering, Seymour, IN</p>
<p><b>16 Easter 2</b> Ezek. 37:1-14 1 John 5:4-10 John 20:19-31  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:30</p>			<p><b>19</b> 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p><b>20</b> Spring Preschool Program and Dinner, 5:30-7 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b> Family Game Night, 6 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> LLL and LWNM Decatur Zone Rally, Bethlehem Lutheran, Ossian, 9 am</p>
<p><b>23 Easter 3</b> Ezek. 34:11-16 1 Peter 2:21-25 John 10:11-16  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:30</p>			<p><b>26</b> 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30 Easter 4</b> Is. 40:25-31 1 Peter 2:11-20 John 16:16-22  Bible Study: 8:45 <b>Divine Service: 10</b> NT Class: 11:30</p>	May 1	2	<p><b>3</b> 7:30 am Bible Study, Wells County Courthouse. 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel  Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events:</b> May 9 – Preschool Graduation May 17 - Ascension Eve Divine Service, 7 pm May 19-20 – New Hope Rummage Sale June 4 – Summer service schedule begins (9 am Divine Service, 10:45 Bible study)</p>		