



The Good News of Easter

Christ Is Risen! We Are Free!



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Things are (not) as they are supposed to be. We have been exploring this theme of Lent as a lament, a profound truth, and yes, a confession to God. We have joined together in worship, fellowship, prayer and song even as we confront the joys of new life, the grief of loss, the pain of hurt, and even the celebration of seeing each other's faces un-masked, figuratively, and spiritually! And now, Easter! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! We will soon gather in-person and online to shout and sing those words together. And what a joyous day that will be!

But guess what? Not even the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is at it should be. *“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died,”* Paul writes in his first letter to the Church in Corinth. How can that be? Jesus was put to death on the cross; that should have meant the end of him and his message. How can it be that Jesus has been raised from the dead? Do you see? The resurrection is not as it should be! Death is supposed to have the final say over us and our relationships with God and each other. Death is supposed to win! But God said, "No." Death shall no longer have dominion over creation. That includes you and me! The question I hold out for us in our life together in the coming season is this: what does it mean that death has no more power over us? What does it mean that we have confronted the truth

of ourselves and our masks? That we have joined in a common confession that this is not the world that is intended to be?

The theologian Karl Barth said in a sermon, “No cultural education, no art, no evolutionary development helps us beyond our sins. We must receive assistance from the ground up. Then the steep walls of our security are broken to bits, and we are forced to become humble, poor, pleading. Thus, we are driven more and more to surrender and give up all that we have, surrender, and give up those things which we formerly used to protect and defend and hold to ourselves against the voice of resurrection's truth.”

How are things supposed to be? We are meant to live free from bondage to sin, free from fear, free from our masks of self-righteousness and self-sufficiency. Free to live in surrender to God's grace and mercy, and free to reflect that love to all of creation.

Join us as we walk together through Holy Week. It has been a long time since we have been able to gather around the altars of the Madison and Verona campuses to sing our Alleluias! I hope to see you there in-person (and online too!)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor Chris Enstad | Lead Pastor

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy to Charlotte Millisor and family on the death of her husband, Mike, of Madison, WI who died on February 28, 2022.

Christian sympathy to Nan Schilling and family on the death of her husband, Dan, of Madison, WI who died on February 24, 2022.

Christian sympathy to Diane Wenzel and family on the death of her father, Don Brindley, of Barneveld who died on March 13, 2022.

Baptisms

Aria Ruth Bailey, child of Emilee & Jaden Bailey, baptized 3/6/22.

Cora Lynn McCrumb, child of Michelle & David McCrumb, baptized 3/6/22.

Thomas Ryan Panzer, child of Ryan & Annie Panzer, baptized 3/13/22.

Lilla Marie Killerlain, child of Krissy & Matt Killerlain, baptized 3/20/22.

Griffin Daniel Sill, child of Danielle & Brian Sill, baptized 3/27/22.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES Gathering around the Lord's Table

Children and their families met in Verona to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion as they prepared for their first experiences of it. Throughout church history, Maundy Thursday has traditionally seen many first communions.



FINANCIAL DASHBOARD February 2021 Update

Statement of Activity - General Fund

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$ 1,261,815	\$ 1,178,881	\$ 82,934
General, Admin & Program Expenses	(1,149,054)	(1,216,029)	66,975
Mortgage Principal - General Fund	(84,646)	(73,364)	(11,283)
Revenue less Expenses and Mortgage	\$ 28,115	\$ (110,511)	\$ 138,626

Cash Balances

	February Fiscal 2022	June Fiscal 2021	YTD	Change
General Fund	\$ 713,805	\$ 528,060	\$	185,745
Board Designated Funds	466,523	643,169		(176,646)
Restricted Funds	358,424	505,107		(146,683)
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 1,538,752	\$ 1,676,336	\$	(137,584)

Mortgage Balance

	February Fiscal 2022	June Fiscal 2021	YTD	Change
Loan Balance Outstanding	\$ 1,416,318	\$ 1,761,942	\$	(345,628)



CHURCH ON WHEELS Meet the COW after Worship and Learn how You Can Help be a Part of the MOO Crew!

Come take a tour of the Holy COW on Sunday, April 3rd after services. We are recruiting volunteers for our upcoming cart season. Join this exciting new ministry by emailing Rick Thomas at: rthomas@gslcwi.com.





YOU'RE INVITED...TO TIMELESS TRADITIONS

Being raised outside of the Lutheran Church, Chris Lester values liturgy. Since 2016, he has brought his voice to the Good Shepherd Community.

Story by Emma Conway | Photo by Melanie Renee

For those of us who have grown up in a Lutheran church, liturgy becomes habitual. Communion, the Lord's Prayer and the benediction feels routine, or even redundant. Chris Lester, however, values these traditions.

Growing up in an Evangelical church, Lester did not experience liturgical celebrations like Advent, Christmas and Easter until he attended a Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, California. During the service, Lester kept hearing, "Pay attention. Listen. Learn." After that service, he believed that churches needed to use traditions from the past to be effective in the present.

"When you cut yourself off from the previous 2000 years of church history, you've cut yourself off from the conversation that Christians have been having amongst each other about what

it means to be in relationship to the Divine and in relationship to each other."

Lester brought his musical talents and appreciation for religious tradition to Good Shepherd's conversation in 2016. While he started attending worship services in Madison out of convenience, he heard that each service had a unique style. He enjoyed Verona's style and became a regular at the evening service. When a music position opened with Echoes of Grace, he transitioned to the 10:30 a.m. service. There, he was welcomed by people like Tracy Dahl and Stephanie Christensen. Lester has been using his voice with them ever since.

Lester says he has not only appreciated Dahl and Christensen's voices at Good Shepherd, but also all the voices which came before him. "All of these different voices throughout history have these perspectives that are each limited, but

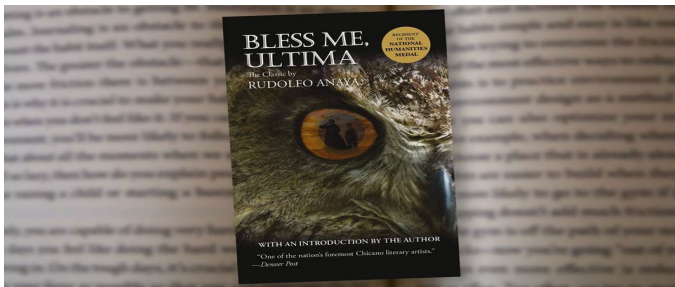
each contained wisdom that we can draw from."

And by raising our voices, by sharing our perspectives, Lester thinks we can grow closer to God and each other.

"The way that you show honor and respect for God is by showing honor and respect for other people, particularly for the marginalized and the disadvantaged."

Lester says we must show honor and respect, even to those we disagree with. In his eyes, disagreement is not always a bad thing. While he did not agree with the Evangelical Church's practices, he found joy in tradition. He found Good Shepherd. Now, he hopes to offer others the same grace he has received here and from God.

"We are called to extend grace to others, not on the basis of what they deserve, but on the basis that they are created in God's image. We are called to love as we have been loved."



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women of the ELCA Book Group

The next book discussion that the Synod Women of the ELCA and the Synod Racial Equity Ministry Team are sponsoring is Bless Me, Ultima, a novel by Rudolfo Anaya an American novelist and educator. His fiction expresses his Mexican American heritage, the tradition of folklore and oral storytelling in Spanish, and the Jungian mythic perspective. This quarterly book discussion will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, from 7 to 8 p.m. via zoom. You must register in advance to participate at gslcwi.com/welcaultima

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please join us. All are welcome to participate – men, women, youth. The discussion will be done in the small groups/breakout rooms. For more information contact Helen Sheahan at sheahan1@sbcglobal.net or 608-692-7553



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Let's Talk About Lent

Join Sarah Iverson and others on Tuesday, April 5th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room at Madison Campus or on Zoom for a conversation about Lent. We're midway through this liturgical season which makes it a good time to check-in with ourselves and others. Perhaps you've been regularly engaging in the practices of the season, perhaps this has proven challenging.

All are welcome. We'll spend some time looking at Lent historically, aesthetically, and especially through the lens of our theme, "Things are (not) as they should be".

Whether this is your first experience of Lent or your fiftieth, you are welcome as we learn from and with each other.

Join the Zoom at gslcwi.com/talklent2



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APRIL 10th

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Madison
10:30 a.m. Verona
6:00 p.m. Verona

We enter Holy Week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love.



APRIL 14th

Maundy Thursday

12:00 p.m. Madison
7:00 p.m. Madison
7:00 p.m. Verona

On Maundy Thursday we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal.



APRIL 15th

Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Madison
7:00 p.m. Madison
7:00 p.m. Verona

Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.



APRIL 17th

Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Verona*
9:00 a.m. Verona
9:00 a.m. Madison
10:30 a.m. Verona
10:30 a.m. Madison

Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Outdoors(weather permitting)*



Experience Holy Week Online: Visit gslcwi.com/live for a stream of each service