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The Reporter

April 2020

The Reporter

Volume 18, Issue 04

“Strangely Similar”

by Pastor Proeber

We are familiar with the account of the first Easter. This is recorded in both the Gospels of Luke and John. While we know the details well, it is good to review them often.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20)

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. (Luke 24:36-40)

There are a number of important points which stand out in the lessons. Because Jesus was crucified and buried—tragically gone from their lives—the disciples were terrified. Where would they go? What would they do? Who would be their leader and teacher? These questions were not the only fear which plagued them. They were also afraid of the Jews. What would stop Jesus’ enemies from hunting them down and subjecting them to the same death Jesus received?

This turbulent time led them to “lay low.” At night they would gather, but the doors were locked and the lights were dim. They didn’t want to do anything that would put themselves under scrutiny. It was a sad state of affairs for Jesus’ disciples that first Easter Sunday. Strangely enough, it sounds all too familiar with the festival of Easter quickly approaching.

Currently fear grips our hearts. What are we to do? Where can we safely go? Who really has the answers? What adds to our uncertainty is we find ourselves between a rock and hard place. We know what the Fourth and Fifth Commandments direct us to do. We want to honor God’s representatives who do us good. We also want to refrain from doing anything to hurt or harm our neighbor. Yet, we also know the words of the First Commandment to fear, love and trust in God above all things.

The uncertainty which surrounds us brings fear. This fear is heightened by all the mandates to shelter in place, to avoid social contact, and to refrain from gathering. Should we celebrate the resurrection, or should we shelter in place? Should we wor-

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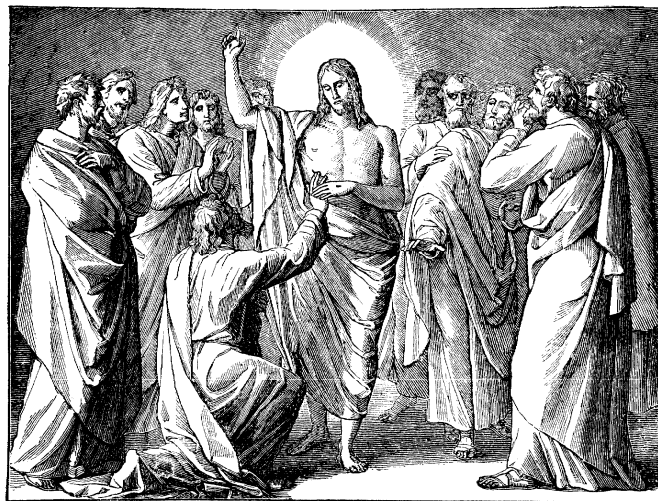
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ship the Lord in boldness, confidence, and joy, or should we lay low? We find ourselves in the strangely similar situation as the disciples did. How do we resolve the fears and the apprehension?

Jesus provided his disciples with the answer they needed. On that first Easter evening he appeared to them. Yes, the doors were locked. The location was guarded. It was under the cover of night. Jesus still searched them out. He had good news to share, news that would alter their lives forever. We know those special words, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts?” He followed them with the assurance only he could give, “Peace be with you!” The moment the disciples heard those words and saw their Savior, their fears were replaced with joy. Jesus was alive! He was still with them!

Again, there is a strange similarity to what we see and experience. In the midst of uncertainty, fear, and apprehension, Jesus comes to us through his Word. He uses the same exhortations, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts?” He also reassures us with those precious words, “Peace be with you!”

This is what we need to hear, especially when we consider the disconcerting times in which we find ourselves. Who hasn’t been touched by the pandemic? Maybe we have remained healthy, but what about our



families and our friends? What about our jobs and income? What about the happiness and satisfaction we enjoyed less than a month ago? No one has been unscathed. Still, the truth which renewed the disciples is ours. It remains true even though we may not see a full sanctuary on Easter Sunday. We might not even have a worship service! No matter what happens in the world around us, even in the church we call our home, nothing diminishes the message Jesus offers.

With bold and unassailable assurance, he tells us not be to be troubled or let doubts rise in our hearts. Even more important he tells us “I am alive, and I live for you!” You see, the resurrection is not about festivities or festival services, it is

about the message of Jesus Christ who lives triumphant from the grave. And even if nothing else happens that day, save hearing or reading of that message, we can rejoice.

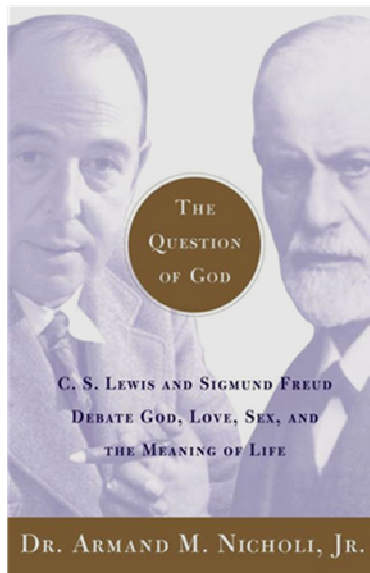
And maybe, just maybe, this might be one of those hard to comprehend blessings from our Lord. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of Easter. There are endless preparations and considerations. Many, if not most of those, will not happen this year. Still our joy is complete and our faith is unshaken, even without all the add-ons. Jesus lives! This can be celebrated in the privacy of our homes with our families, through printed sermons, or even video streaming. Most important, we have a unique opportunity to savor what our Savior has done without interruption.

We want to seize this precious opportunity and hold it tightly. It is this message which separates us from everyone else in the world. Nothing can erase what Jesus has done. Nothing can silence the joyous message he proclaims. Nothing can undermine the foundation he provides.

As we approach the resurrection of our Savior, never forget what truly brings certainty, joy and confidence. It is the message proclaimed by our living, loving, and victorious Savior.

“The Question of God” by Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr.

by Deborah Aitkins



Recently a group from church attended a performance by Max McLean at the Granada Theater of “C.S. Lewis On Stage: The Most Reluctant Convert.” A DVD of this performance was previously shown at the church and several of us were eager to see it live which proved to be very worthwhile. After that evening, I began reading and listening to various audio books by C. S. Lewis, as well as reading biographies on Lewis. One of these books was, “The Question of God: C. S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life” by Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr., an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital with an active practice as a psychiatrist.

Dr. Nicholi makes it clear that to his or anyone’s knowledge, Lewis and Freud, a generation older than Lewis, never met; although Lewis references Freud in some of his writings. Despite being unlikely, there is speculation that there might have been a meeting between the two. Interestingly, it was reported, that during the period of time that Freud lived in Hampstead, England he had a visit from a young Oxford professor. Whether Lewis was that professor we will likely never know. Without direct interaction between the two to draw on, what Dr. Nicholi has done in this fascinating study, is to take the writings of both Lewis and Freud and their known histories and make an intriguing comparison between the two – their childhoods, disappointments, tragedies and their worldviews which formed as a result.

The parallels between both men are quite remarkable as are the similarities in their thinking, that is, up until the conversion of Lewis to Christianity which is when their paths diverged dramatically. Both had home lives disrupted with loss and/or abandonment and difficult relationships with fathers which left them cynical of life and self-centered. Both claimed to be atheists, Lewis, at times, even more resolute in his unbelief than Freud. Both, while espousing atheism, expressed their anger with God, blaming him for their sorrows and life’s sufferings. These initial similarities make the divergence after Lewis’s transformation a compelling study of contrast between one man, mired by cynicism, self-absorption and insecurities versus the other who, initially the same, was transformed by his eventual belief in God and not long after, his faith in Jesus Christ as the incarnate God, into a man who was outgoing, generous, kind, appreciative of life, and cognizant of the value of all people.

I cannot claim to have had any prior significant knowledge of Freud except what probably most people do in terms of his impact in the world of psychoanalysis and his premise that most everything about a person’s thought processes and actions is sexually driven. These views of Freud are covered by the author along with what I found to be a striking dichotomy between the esteemed doctor and his conclusions concerning the impetus behind man’s behavior, versus how he actually lived his life and the truth of his own rather fragile personality.

Based on his research and observations, Freud’s views formed as to the significant role sexuality plays in humans. He set out to liberate mankind from what he considered an unhealthy, societally imposed, repressed attitude toward sex. His view was that all, even infant behavior, is driven by man’s innate sexual nature, either consciously or unconsciously. Notwithstanding this being his conclusion he was not, as he attempted to explain to his critics, advocating that men and women must or even should succumb to this inherent nature. He seems to have lived his life consistent with this attitude, being celibate until marriage to his wife while also bringing his children up with that same moral view – a moral view, despite considerable self-analysis to understand its source, he was never willing to credit to the Creator who placed it there.

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Whereas the converted Lewis did, as is shown in his conclusion that the biblical story makes no sense until “you have realized that there is a real Moral Law, and a Power behind the law, and that you have broken that law and put yourself wrong with that Power.” Freud instead chalked morality up to learned behavior, emanating from human experience – an argument even he never seemed fully to have embraced as satisfying.

Freud did, it seems, live a moral life which he freely pointed out in some of his letters. Stating that, “*I consider myself to be a very moral person*” he elaborated on his reasoning, listed his virtues and concluded that he was “*better than most other people*.” Setting aside one’s conclusion that such boasting demonstrates extreme arrogance, his moral stand might leave one with a positive impression of Freud whether or not you subscribe to his conclusions on man’s sexually driven nature. But, despite any commendable morality on his part, Freud was also a web of contradictions. Freud was preoccupied with death, was distrustful and critical of most people, hurt and offended by the rejection of his theories by many of his colleagues, unforgiving, and as previously mentioned, antagonistic toward a God he claimed not to believe in.

Freud’s view of people is shown in several quotes the author offers, “*The unworthiness of human beings, even of analysis, has always made a deep impression on me.*” And also this, “*I do not break my head very much about good and evil, but I have found little that is ‘good’ about human beings on the whole. In my experience most of them are trash, no matter whether they publicly subscribe to this or that ethical doctrine or none at all.*” A neighbor, rather than someone to love, was someone “*to humiliate him*” and “*cause him pain.*” As for death, Freud feared it, continually anticipated it, and ultimately welcomed it (he committed suicide/euthanasia). Death is the topic of numerous of his writings, for example: “*What good to us is a long life if it is difficult and barren of joys, and if it is so full of misery that we can only welcome death as a deliverer?*” Sadly, even in deducing the apparent contradiction surrounding death when he observed, “*Our unconscious then does not believe in its own death; it behaves as if it were immortal,*” Freud seems in the end to have only made the observation without taking it to its ultimate conclusion; namely, that man was not originally intended for death and the soul, in fact, never dies. He dismissed as myth, the belief in a life after death, chalking it up to wishful thinking by people to avoid “*the terrors of eternal nothingness.*” Instead he concluded, “*If you want to endure life, prepare yourself for death,*” while at the same time, as the author points out, he himself feared that ‘eternal nothingness.’

*Freud was
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All of Freud’s internal struggles concerning life which he viewed as riddled with disappointment, pain, sorrow and suffering, caused a chronic case of depression and elicited in him a global distrust of people and the inability to imagine the possibility of any true joy. He did not grow up lacking religious training in both Judaism and Christianity and his reading on the subject did not cease as an adult – in fact, a large copy of a Martin Luther Bible was found on Freud’s shelves by the author, Dr. Nicholi, who has identified quotes by Freud as likely coming from this translation. Freud in fact referenced God and an afterlife often in his writings – a few examples being, “*with God’s help*”, “*if God so wills*”, “*until after the Resurrection*”, “*in the next world*”, and maybe most intriguing, “*science seems to demand the existence of God.*” Of the many examples Dr. Nicholi sites, most could be dismissed as figures of speech, but as the author points out we are dealing with Freud who credited significance and meaning to every word spoken. But, in the end, despite this knowledge of both the Old and New Testaments, his advanced education, an above average intellect, and having corresponded his entire life with Christian friends and clergy, Freud went through life and to his death, although conflicted, ultimately succumbing to a view of man as nothing more than biological and bound only by physical laws.

Many of these views were once shared by Lewis and could have taken him on the same path as Freud, the difference being, Lewis overcame his negative, bleak worldview when faith took hold and transformed him into the new man he became. Lewis went from, “*Nearly all that I believed to be real I thought grim and meaning-*

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less ... I was so far from wishful thinking that I hardly thought anything true unless it contradicted my wishes," to a view that joy was indeed possible but only in union with God, "God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on ... God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing." And Lewis came to understand without bitterness, the limitations of happiness in this life. He wrote: "We have plenty of fun, and some ecstasy," while also acknowledging that God limits happiness in this life and instead only, "refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant Inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for our home." He understood that we were not made for this world but for another, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." And further, "If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, ... Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing." And with regard to earthly blessings, "never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage." He recognized this other world as his "true country," when he said, "I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; ... I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same." And finally, "All your life an unattainable ecstasy has hovered just beyond the grasp of your consciousness. The day is coming when you will wake to find, beyond all hope, that you have attained it, or else, that it was within your reach and you have lost it forever." Sadly, we must conclude that Freud discovered the latter.

As for Lewis' view of death, unlike Freud who although depressed by life also feared death, Dr. Nicholi points out about the atheist Lewis, "Not death but life depressed him." Lewis went from pre-conversion, "The materialist's universe had the enormous attraction that ... death ended all ... And if ever finite disasters proved greater than one wished to bear, suicide would always be possible. The horror of the Christian universe was that it had no door marked Exit," to after his conversion, believing, as Dr. Nicholi explains, "the only person to decide the time of one's death was the Person who gave one life," and in Lewis' words, that death "is also the means that God uses to redeem us." That "the death of Christ is the remedy for the Fall." That "it is Satan's great weapon and also God's great weapon: ... our supreme disgrace and our only hope; the thing Christ came to conquer and the means by which He conquered."

*"I must keep
alive in my-
self the desire
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which I shall
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after death."*

— Lewis

Dr. Nicholi's "The Question of God" was an engrossing read, revealing the similar histories of these two scholarly men, the uncanny parallels in attitude and worldview, and finally, the drastic divergence when Jesus Christ entered Lewis' life and faith took root but sadly never did in Freud's. It provides a stark lesson of the transforming power of the Gospel, when two so similar persons, traveling such similar paths, can then deviate so utterly when faith takes hold of one but not the other. For me it also offered a sobering reminder how fragile and precarious this individual journey through life is for each man and woman, and how critical the choices we make for ourselves. Choices in how we live and view life, in how we act, and whether we choose to speak or remain silent before those God brings us in contact with. We may never know the outcome of our witness, or we may see it fail as did the clergy Freud corresponded with throughout his life, or we may see that joyful awakening as Lewis' Christian friends were blessed to witness and enjoy throughout their continued friendship. In the end, it doesn't matter if we get to observe the results of our witness, as long as we keep in the forefront the necessity to reach out. "You can't believe a thing while you are ignorant what the thing is," Lewis wrote of his own unbelief. This book provides a vivid but harsh contrast between a soul which succumbed to the lie that this life is all there is versus a soul redeemed for life everlasting.



LWMS Spring Rally in Yorba Linda

by Sonja Todd

The LWMS Golden West Circuit convened their 2020 Spring rally at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Yorba Linda, CA. The church building is perched on a hilltop overlooking the beautiful Anaheim Hills which borders Yorba Linda. About 34 women and 4 men attended. Nine congregations in the Golden West Circuit were represented at this rally.

Pastor Philip Sievert (Pastor at Grace) gave the opening devotion and prayer at 9:00 A.M. This was followed by our morning Bible study which was led by Pastor Dean Ellis (Crown of Life, Riverside CA). The Bible study was "Walking by Faith and not by Sight" based on Genesis 22. During our morning break we again had yummy treats that the ladies of Grace prepared.

The Spiritual Growth Committee prepared a fun game, "LWMS Jeopardy." We had four teams and five categories (Liar Liar, LWMS Facts, Kids CARE, Is it Edible?, and The WELS). It was conducted like the TV game show of the same name and tested how much each team knew about the LWMS and WELS. It was fun and informative.



Next on the agenda was our Business Meeting. New Golden West LWMS board officers were elected. And then the plate offering from all the attendees and from the rally registration fees was reported. The plate offering totaled \$647.00 and the fees from the rally registration totaled \$187.00. We then voted on where to send the

donations. The result was \$500.00 for "Kids CARE". In addition, the Golden West circuit voted to fund the "Nepal Projects" for World Missions and "Hmong Ministry" for Home Missions. Finally, our pastor, Rev. James Proeber, replaced Pastor Ellis as the Pastoral Advisor.

Lunch was prepared by the ladies of Grace Lutheran Church. It consisted of several salads plus warm ham & cheese sandwiches. There were a lot of dessert offerings as well. The lunch was held in the Fellowship Hall and we all had time to get to know some of the other ladies in attendance.

Our speaker was Ruth Schmitzer from Jenera, Ohio. Her husband is the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran. Ruth talked about her recent trip to Nepal with two other WELS ladies on behalf of Kids CARE. This was a fascinating story about how our prayers and financial assistance are helping bring the gospel to Nepal. Although Nepal is an overwhelmingly Hindu nation, many people are anxious to hear about Jesus and the free gift of salvation! It is always interesting to hear about another culture.



The closing devotion was led by Pastor Ellis and included the installation of the new Board. This year we had a special treat as the WELS musical group "Branches" – visiting Grace for a performance – agreed to perform for the rally attendees at the closing and also stayed and sang additional songs after the official closing which was at 2:00 P.M..

The Fall Rally will be held at Green Valley Church, Henderson (suburb of east Las Vegas), Nevada on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Please plan to attend.

Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach Committee has had to adapt to state and county recommendations made during the pandemic. While Easter is a perfect time to conduct outreach into the community, many of these plans were put on the back burner. We will still conduct our regular Holy Week and Easter worship schedule, albeit more informally. The Committee is also considering what changes should be made in previously scheduled events. In spite of the many changes, we can still share the good news of a Savior with those who are distressed and worried. What better comfort to share than Jesus lived for us, Jesus died for us, and Jesus rose for us!

Holy Week and Easter Celebration

April 5th	Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
April 9th	Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm
April 10th	Good Friday Worship at 7:00 pm
April 12th	Easter Festival Worship at 9:30 am with time for snacks following the service for friends and members.
April 14th	The Seminary Touring Choir Concert has been cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic.

Future Activities

June TBD	Family Game Night and Ice Cream Social
July 4th	Movie, Barbeque, Fireworks and Desserts
July TBD	Vacation Bible School
August 23rd	Beach, Bike and Barbeque at Goleta Beach

Here's another suggestion through which we can share the good news of Jesus Christ. Did you know we record the Sunday sermon every week? Did you also know it is on our website by Tuesday? Did you know printed copies of the sermon are now available? Talk to those who need to know what God has done for them. Share these resources with them. Then, let Pastor Proeber know where to send CD's or printed sermons, or better yet, pick them up and share them.

April Birthdays

We rejoice in the many blessings God has given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless them richly.

1 st	Margaret B.
4 th	Pat F.
6 th	Daniel G.
	Lance S.
13 th	Pam S.
18 th	Caroline P.
19 th	Jessica J.
24 th	John F.
25 th	Penny G.
26 th	Ian S.
30 th	Colleen P.



Notes & News



Handbell Choir

During the third Sunday of Lent, the handbells were part of the worship service. With the spread of the “coronavirus,” practices have been more irregular. This means the ringers will only play at our Easter Sunday Festival Service. God willing, there may be some resolution to the current situation and the bells can prepare for Pentecost and Trinity. In any event, we thank those who have continued to prepare and play for our worship services.

Choir

The mixed voice choir has continued to practice through the last month and one half. They have also sung for two Sunday services. They continue to prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We thank the Lord for their dedication, as we ask the Lord to keep other members in our prayers. They have refrained from practice because of health concerns. May the Lord keep all in his tender care and mercy.

Wednesday Evening + Bible Study

On April 22nd following Easter, a new Bible Study will start. For the next 8 weeks the class will turn its attention to the Book of 2 Kings. The book picks up where 1st Kings left off. Some of the people included in the study will be the prophets Elijah and Elisha. There will also be good kings and corrupt kings. Most important, the Lord’s undeserved love and faithfulness will shine through—even in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness. Come and revisit this timeless book. Classes begin at 7:00 pm and usually last for an hour.

Sunday Morning + Bible Study

Every Sunday following the worship service and refreshments, there is Bible Study. Currently the class is reviewing the book: “God, the Ultimate Humanitarian.” It is a book which clearly reveals God’s undeserved love for sinners—showing them mercy, forgiving them, and offering unlimited patience. The book is a good reminder for each of us. It also helps address concerns people might have about God’s goodness and mercy.

The class begins at 11:00 am and goes until 12:00 noon.



After giving the current health situation due consideration, Sunday School will no longer meet this Spring. We recognize it is a disappointment for the teachers, and especially for the students. In the meantime, the teachers will mail the bi-weekly lessons. The parents will then have the opportunity to work together with their children, and enjoy sharing time with God’s Word.

If there are any questions regarding the schedule, or if you are not receiving the lessons, please contact John Favuzzi. You may also contact Sonja Todd or Sue Proeber.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. If things do change, restarting Sunday School will be considered.



“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

More Notes & News

Working through Uncertainty

On Tuesday, March 24th, the Church Council met briefly to discuss what we have been doing, and what we will enhance during this time of uncertainty. With the direction God's Word provided through the prophet Isaiah, chapter 49:14-16, we reviewed some of the precautions we are taking in order to keep our doors open —

- ✕ Disinfecting the tops of the benches and door handles
- ✕ Cleaning the building more thoroughly
- ✕ Placing hand wipes at the entrance to the church and fellowship hall
- ✕ Not passing the offering plates
- ✕ Reminding worshipers to allow extra space
- ✕ Offering continuous distribution of the Lord's Supper
- ✕ Pastor and communion attendant wearing gloves for distribution
- ✕ Encouraging people to stay home if there are any health concerns
- ✕ Ending Sunday School for the remainder of the Spring

To these preparations we are adding the following helps for those who have to remain in home —

- ✕ Continue to make CD's of the worship service available
- ✕ Direct people to website to listen to the sermon
- ✕ Printing copies of the sermon and mailing them to those who request it
- ✕ Utilizing video streaming of the worship service.

Regarding the last item, this past Wednesday evening we had our first stream. Josh Schueler set up the camera on his laptop and put the video on YOUTUBE. Everything worked surprisingly well. In the next week or two, we will publish the link so our home bound people will be able to watch the service in real time, or at a later time. Because this tool can be used in the future for outreach purposes, the decision was made to purchase a video camera, enhance our internet connection, and make the streaming of our worship services a regular part of our ministry. If you would like to take advantage of this technology now, please contact Josh or Pastor.

Last, but not least, we are considering a service of thanksgiving to the Lord as he keeps us under his care. This will come at a future date when the restrictions are lifted.

¹⁴ But Zion said, "The LORD has abandoned me. The Lord has forgotten me." ¹⁵ Can a woman forget her nursing child and not show mercy to the son from her womb? Even if these women could forget, I will never forget you. ¹⁶ Look, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. Your walls are never out of my sight.
(Isaiah 49:14-16)

Church Cleanup



On **April 4th at 9:30 am**, we will have our regular spring clean up. Even though this was usually done in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter Services, the property and buildings still needs a good cleaning following the winter weather.

The Building and Grounds Chairman, Jim Brown, understands there are still health recommendations and concerns, but funny thing about cleaning the church, it is easy to practice social distancing. If you find yourself with a little extra time and ambition, plan to come and work for a couple of hours. Every little bit helps.

Work to be done includes vacuuming under benches, sweeping down cobwebs, cleaning flower beds, washing windows—inside and out, and cleaning screens. There is also mowing, trimming and weeding which can be done. Thanks!

Reporters Wanted



Book review? Personal Story of Faith?
Event report? Potluck—gathering? Party? Field Trip?

Half-page to two pages
Reviewed for scriptural consistency
Due by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Email to Pastor Proeber (pastor@orlcsb.net or
james.proeber@gmail.com)

A simple and rewarding way to serve!

Thanks to Sonja Todd for her article and pictures, and to Debbie Aitkins for her book review in this month's *Reporter*.

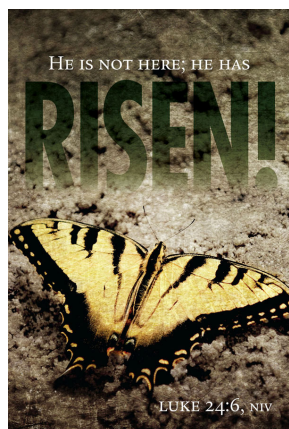
There is a standing invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. Throughout the past volumes, articles authored by members have really made every issue more interesting. We pray that every member might provide an article in 2020. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber for advice. Thanks!

Meetings for April

Church Council	Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 pm
Committees	Tuesday, April 7th at 8:00 pm
Outreach Committee	Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 pm

The Quarterly Meeting is April 17th following the Worship Service

If you have a question regarding a specific area of ministry, please contact a member of the appropriate Board. He will be happy to help.



Luther on the Resurrection

In an explanation of I Corinthians 15:13—"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised"—Luther had this to say regarding the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

"He who would preach the Gospel must go directly to preaching

the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He who does not preach the resurrection is no apostle, for this is the chief part of our faith. The greatest importance attaches to this article of faith. For were there no resurrection, we would have neither comfort nor hope, and everything else Christ did and suffered

would be in vain."

This Paul also bears out in 15:19—"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."

But Christ did rise from the dead! This is the solid foundation upon which we stand, and through which we confidently live.