

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2019



From the Pastor – In my report for the annual meeting this January, I mentioned that the Congregation Council was making plans for engaging in a process of congregational "discernment." Here, in brief, is some of what I wrote:

The dictionary definition of discernment is 1) the ability to judge well; 2) (in Christian contexts) obtaining spiritual guidance and direction. "Judging well" what "God would have us do" in the ministry of our congregation over the course of the next few years is our goal.

Praying and studying the Bible are where we start, in seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and inspiration, as we look to the future and consider our congregational priorities. One helpful passage from Scripture is Philippians 1:9-10 where St. Paul writes, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ."

On our foundation of prayer and Bible study, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we will consider specific ideas as to various ministries (i.e. programs, events, activities) we might undertake. The many ideas that are surfaced are given further prayer and discussion, through which we ask God's help in identifying ("judging well") which should rise to the top as priorities for Holy Cross, and then we move into the implementation stage.

And now, some additional information about how this process will unfold. Please mark **Sunday April 28th** on your calendar. This will be a discernment orientation/kickoff type event. After the 10:00 a.m. single service we will gather in Luther Hall to enjoy a meal together, and the various components of the process will be highlighted. One resource we will look at comes from the Mennonite tradition, and is called: "Guidelines for Biblical/Communal Discernment." Other study and prayer resources will be made available for individuals to use on their own, along with a list of dates and times when people can gather to pray and study in small groups. Information will also be shared about an event in the fall, at which we will again gather as a congregation -- this time for brainstorming and prioritizing of specific programs/events/activities which we discern God is calling us to undertake.

If this description of what lies ahead still seems less than completely clear to you, you are not alone! Neither I myself, nor members of Council, are entirely sure to what the discernment process will lead us as a congregation. And yet we feel God is calling us to strike out in trust and see what happens! We are certainly laying out plans and making preparations and thinking about resources, timelines, etc. But along with our responsibility to take such steps, this is also about putting ourselves in the hands of God, asking and trusting that the Holy Spirit lead, guide, and direct us along our way. May we -- together -- proceed down this path opening our minds, hearts and spirits to whatever God has in store for us!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Paul Royal Dargis – brief biography: Born in 1938, in Ellsworth, Maine, educated at Kennebunk High School, Portland University and the University of Maine, Paul is a retired Certified Public Accountant. He and his wife Karen, a West Kennebunk native, have been married for fifty-eight years; have two children, two grandchildren, three grand dogs and three grand cats. Paul’s retirement interests include walking their goldendoodle, yard work, reading, collecting and running electric trains and old cars.

A CARESS OF GOD **by Donna Simmons**

During Lenten devotions the other day, I read a quote from Pope Francis when he was addressing members of St. Peter’s Circle. He said, “Every day we are called to become “*a caress of God*” for those who perhaps have forgotten their first caresses, or perhaps who never have felt a caress in their life.”

I was grateful in my young life that my parents taught me group hugs, or as they called them, family hugs. It was a way of showing our love for our family. As I grew older the family hugs stopped and I turned to God in prayer. Sometimes when life was difficult, and when my first marriage was breaking up, I would spend my lunch hour walking 7 city blocks (in heels) to the closest open church for quiet solitude with the Lord.

I eventually met a man who gave hugs freely, and I knew I was loved. We married and taught our children and eventually our grandchildren about family hugs.

When I was in church on Sundays we shared God’s peace, even with a simple hand clasp, I knew God was there in that simple caress.

I think of the homeless on the street and wonder if they feel *the caress of God*? I remember once asking a homeless woman who was sitting near the edge of a street corner if there was anything I could get her. I was thinking of a warm coat or a hot cup of soup. But all she said was she could use a hug. I remember hugging her and whispering in her ear, “God loves you.”

I think you could call that “*a caress of God*”.

Hug someone and share God’s love.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE

Continuing each Wednesday through April 10th. A simple meal of bread and soup is served in Luther Hall at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, also in Luther Hall. The services are a time of prayers, hymns, readings, reflection and sharing. These times to gather are encouraged as a part of one’s Lenten preparation leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Indicating your intention to attend by adding your name to the list in the Narthex is appreciated, though not required.

Signing up to bring a soup or bread is also appreciated. Thank you!



HOLY WEEK



Holy Week begins April 14th with Palm Sunday, when the focus of our worship is the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, welcomed by adoring crowds.

Holy Week Services will be held at Kennebunk Baptist Church on Main Street from *12 noon to 12:30pm*. This is a long standing community tradition, going back to when factory workers at the Lafayette Center would attend during their lunch break. There is a service each day, Monday through Friday, April 15th to 19th. Please see the notice on the white board at church for each day's topic and preacher.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18th, the theme for worship is the institution of the Lord's Supper, and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet -- the service concludes with the stripping of the altar. PLEASE NOTE: we are trying something quite new this year, with the Maundy Thursday service taking place primarily in Luther Hall, and the order of worship more simplified. People will be seated around tables, where the bread, grape juice, and wine of communion will be distributed in greater abundance than typically happens at the altar rail. As the elements are consumed, conversation will take place around the tables on the theme of

"memorable meals" people have experienced in their life. There will also be a foot washing ceremony this year, involving people who volunteer ahead of time to participate. Please contact Pastor Rich if you would like to be part of this group, as some explanation will be given ahead of time as to how the foot washing will proceed.



Good Friday, April 19th, is sometimes referred to as a "service of shadows" because the sanctuary gets progressively darker as we hear and reflect upon the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and death.



Please note that on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday the service time will be at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday!

Easter Sunday is April 21st with services at **8:15 am** and **10:45 am**. The chancel area will be filled with Easter flowers, and the bare, wooden cross from Good Friday will also be adorned with flowers, having been transformed from a symbol of death, into a sign of God's promise of new and everlasting life through faith in Christ. Special music will assist us in singing out to God in gratitude and praise, for his saving power and steadfast love.



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR EASTER

There will be a light breakfast of juice, coffee and hot cross buns served between the services. A sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the entryway at church if you can help to provide any of the food for the Easter breakfast. Thank you!

EASTER FLOWERS

We would like to have a beautiful flower display in the Chancel for Easter.

**Please fill out the order form and return it with payment
no later than April 14th 2019**

Number Ordered	# of plants	Cost per Plant	Total
Lilies			
6" lilies		\$12	
8" double lilies		\$24	
Tulip			
6" tulip		\$10	
10" tulip		\$20	
Hyacinth			
6" hyacinth		\$10	
10" hyacinth		\$20	
Daffodils			
6" daffodil		#10	

Donation toward flowers for the Easter Cross = _____

TOTAL # OF PLANTS ORDERED _____

TOTAL COST OF ORDER \$ _____

Person(s) giving flowers _____

Phone # _____

Print Wording of Dedication for the Bulletin:



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: SINGING IN THE SHOWER

By Roger Rotvig

They say that even people who claim not to be able to "carry a tune in a bushel basket" have been found trying to sing in the shower. There is something about the hard surface of the small-enclosed area that makes them think they might still have a chance on "American Idol" some day.

The stair-well at the back of Holy Cross, leading to the Choir Loft, has many of the same characteristics of a shower. A hard surfaced small-enclosed area, in this case, two stories tall. Most of the near dozen or so choir members at Holy Cross sit with their families through most of the service. You see them leave for the balcony after the sermon, during the Hymn of the Day or the Creed since their anthem is usually sung during the time of the Offering.

As the anthem ends, the ushers bring the offering plates and communion bread forward to the chancel while the congregation stands and the choir members descend to the main floor to rejoin their families. We all sing a very meaningful Offertory, usually the one that goes;

"Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all: unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come."

If the Offertory is meant to be a congregation's response and commitment of their lives to God for what He has given us, then the choir members singing these words to the tops of their lungs as they descend to the main floor in our very special stairwell echo chamber, must surely be a sound that even the Angelic Host surrounding the throne of God will stop and listen to with heavenly delight.

Even if you think you have a singing voice for the shower only, give the Holy Cross choir a try. We have a great time, quite often sound really wonderful, and always have room for more (shower) singers to give glory to God.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: "FEEDING BODY & SOUL!"

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, April 6th, is the day for the next bean supper! There will be the usual menu of beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, various breads and, of course, PIE! Everyone is welcome, both from within the church and the wider community. If you are a regular volunteer, please check with Julie if you can or cannot help.

COME HAVE SOME PIE!



FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Monday, April 8th, is the Friendship Lunch. Everyone is welcome! We serve at noon. If you're interested in helping with the meal, contact Mary Keating.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

“Oh my goodness” (as my Grandmother used to say), the calendar has reached March and we are just about to be in the spring of the year! (As you read this it will be spring) For me, this has been really slowly creeping up on me, and I think the reason is that Lent and the Easter season is so late in the calendar. Perhaps, having Easter Sunday later in April will mean we “may” have flowers in the garden, warmer temps to allow Easter finery of a lighter kind (not the down jacket and ear muffs!). I still have a picture of my family all dressed up to go to Easter Sunday School and Service many years ago, as they stood in our back yard in Stamford, Ct., Sylvia my wife and daughter Gail in their Easter hats and sons Jay and Dave in jackets and ties.

Easter, a time for joy in the belief of our risen Christ, a time for new life in spring, after the cold of winter, and a time to give thanks for all the blessings we all have in our lives. It is also a time to be grateful for our church, Holy Cross and all the members and friends who are part of our lives, and all the things the church does, in our community, our Synod, and our world at large.

The ELCA web site has a very interesting poster showing “Where Does My Offering Go!” The print is too small to reproduce it here but let me list the places shown and the percent of the total for each:

Grow the ELCA in the United States, 25% for 357 new congregations to reach out into surrounding communities.

Grow the Lutheran Church around the world, 15% to send 230 missionaries to 48 countries.

Provide coordination and support for church wide ministries, 16% supports staff, office space and technology.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA, 15% to support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities and 9,900 ministers.

Invest in technology and communications, 8% to design and maintain communication tools to connect members.

Provide and support governance and leadership, 5% for the 65 synodical bishops.

Grow and sustain financial resources, 5% related to stewardship, education and missions.

Address and promote social issues, 4% which impacts 1 in every 50 Americans.

Research and strategic planning, 2% to improve our mission in the 21st century.

Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relationships, 2% to seek unity and faithful life for all Lutherans.

As we renew our commitment to our faith in this new Easter season, we can pray and be thankful for all that our church can do and how we generously contribute to what it does.

Carl Graves

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS, OUR NEW NEIGHBORS – HELP NEEDED



Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors is currently supporting 30 newly arrived to Maine families from the Middle East and Africa. Currently there is a great need for the following donations:

Diapers (in all sizes), Gift cards for food (Hannaford, Market Basket, and Walmart), Gift cards for outdoor clothing (Reny's, TJ Maxx, Goodwill, Kohl's, and Target). As the families live in

Biddeford the above store locations are convenient for them. Any cash contributions can be earmarked for the Pastor's discretionary fund and we will purchase the items. Diapers can be left in the bin located in the Narthex (entryway). Gifts cards can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office – please be sure to mark them as being for “Welcoming New Immigrants.” If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Dearman Mills ([641-3837](tel:641-3837)) or pastor. Thank you for your generosity!

FROM BETTY KREIE...

Bob and I read these devotions, and I wanted to share them...

When Bob and I were in Germany (1960s) Bill was our Chaplain. Years ago when Bill was near death his wife told him, "Bill if you make it thru this you must write a book! You have so many stories!" Since then Bill has blest us with nine books. These devotions are from one of the books he wrote:

March 6

The Foundation Stone of the Church

"So, I will call you Peter, which means 'a Rock.' On this rock, I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18, CEV).

Peter's Great Confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," was identified as the stone or rock upon which Jesus would build His Church. Then Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter ("the Rock").

Let us consider at least five stones or rocks that are essential in building a church with a firm foundational structure: (1) Exalt Jesus! (2) Make Worship a Priority! (3) Be Authentic! (4) Build Unity and Community! (5) Promote Missions and Ministries!

Let these stones cry out for attention as we seek to know and to do God's will. First, we must exalt Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Our praise and worship are all about Him, not about you and me, not about anyone or any thing else, only Him!

Planning, procedures, preaching, prayers, music, offering, decisions, all should be done in a manner that makes worship meaningful, exciting, challenging, and life-changing.

We are not "playing" church. The Church is the body of Christ: therefore, we must be authentic, real, persons of integrity.

If we focus on the "Who" of our faith rather than "What" we believe, we are more likely to develop a sense of cooperation and unity. The "Who" is unifying. The "what" is divisive.

We cannot be "church" if we do not promote and participate actively in missions and ministries.

A Prayer For Today: Lord, help me this day to keep Jesus first in everything that I say and do. In His holy Name, I pray.

March 7

Living Stones

"And now you are living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house." (1 Peter 2:4, CEV).

We ought to live like "living stones." Jesus is the Living Stone and we are "living stones" just as Jesus is the Light of the World and He said, "You are the light of the world." You are in Christ and Christ is in you. His life is life in you. He's alive; therefore, I am alive. He lives and I also live.

Consider the different types of stones in the Bible: (1) Uncut Stones: (to make altars untainted by human works: Exodus 20:25). (2) Smooth Stones: 1 Sam 17 - (to defeat evil). (3) Living Stones: 1 Peter 2:4-5 (to make a Spiritual House). (4) Precious Stones: Rev 21:11 (to reflect the glorious light of God). These aspects of stones give us a little insight about ourselves.

Only God can take our sinful lives — sinful and uncut — and shape them into smooth useful stones with power to defeat the Goliaths that try to destroy us. We are precious to Him. It's not because we are good, compassionate, or generous. He loves us.

Bud Wilkinson, many years ago as the great winning coach of so many great football games at the University of Oklahoma, had an oft-quoted definition of football: "It is 50,000 people in desperate need of exercise sitting and watching 22 men who are in desperate need of rest." Does that not sound like a definition of the church? We become spectators summoning the few to do our praying, proclaiming, witnessing, giving, and growing in the faith. Each of us is a brick in the spiritual house made of living stones.

A Prayer For Today: Lord, enable me to live in Christ as Christ lives in and through me. In Jesus' Name, I pray.

YOUTH WORK CAMP MISSION TRIP

The Youth Work Camp Mission Trip will be July 21st to 27th in Dexter Maine. The Youth have decorated envelopes and attached them to a poster board in the church entryway. If you can make a contribution in support of the work they will be doing this summer, please take one of the envelopes from the board, enclose your donation, then drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church office (2 Lord St. Kennebunk, ME 04043). Any and all help is greatly appreciated! The fees paid to attend the camp support the cost of food and lodging for the week, and also the purchase of paint and building materials for the work crews.



PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parent's Prayer group meets the first Monday of every month in Lord Street House. From 4:30 to 5:30 we will share prayer concerns and pray together. From 5:30 to 6:00, we will devote time to fellowship and book discussion. (The book we are reading is *The Power of a Praying Parent* and copies are available.) We pray for all children of all ages and all stages - please join us!

JACK'S CORNER: Walking Down the Aisle ***Submitted by Jack Bates***

Little Tony was in his uncle's wedding. As he came down the aisle during the ceremony, he carefully took two steps then stopped and turned to the crowd. When facing the congregation he put his hands up like claws and roared loudly. So it went, step, step, turn, roar, step, step, turn, roar, all the way down the aisle.

As you can imagine, the congregation was near tears from laughing. By the time little Tony reached the altar, he was near tears, too. When later asked what he was doing, the boy sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."

Intoxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.



April 2019

he is risen...

To Schedule Meeting Space (in Luther Hall, Lord Street House, sanctuary, etc.) please be sure to contact Faith Gillman -- faithgillman@yahoo.com -- to avoid any conflicts on the church calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5 pm Al-Anaon 5:30 Sea Glass</p>	<p>1 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)</p>	<p>2 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters</p>	<p>3 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) Noon Kennebunk Cares Closet 6 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 Lenten Service</p>	<p>4 Noon Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours</p>	<p>5 Noon Kennebunk 10:00 am GEB Puppy Class</p>	<p>6 Noon Kennebunk 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)</p>
<p>14 PALM SUNDAY 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)</p>	<p>9 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters 6 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)</p>	<p>10 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 Lenten Service</p>	<p>11 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours</p>	<p>12 8 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day Noon LSH office in use</p>	<p>13 8 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day Noon LSH office in use</p>
<p>21 EASTER! 8:15 Worship 10:45 Worship</p>	<p>15 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet</p>	<p>16 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters</p>	<p>17 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)</p>	<p>18 Maundy Thurs. 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 7:30 Worship</p>	<p>19 Good Friday 10:00 am GEB Puppy Class 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>20 8 am LSH office in use</p>
<p>28 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>22 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet</p>	<p>23 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters 6 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>24 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)</p>	<p>25 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours</p>	<p>26 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Confirmation Class</p>	<p>27 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Confirmation Class</p>
<p>29 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet</p>	<p>30 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters</p>					

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



Jim Keating
Diana Breitenfield
Rolf Bandle
Patti Berg-Anderson
Becky
Liz Lienhard
Konrad
Brenda & Tom
Dottie Graves
Ed Fox
David Donald

Jake
Lenny and Vicky Lambert
Bill and Polly Janiak
Baby Myka
Earl
Joe Hakanson
Laurie Morin
Missy Cheaver
Susan
Henry Perkins
Dea Cleveland

Steve
Olivia
Silas
Susan Smith
Tina Campbell
Nicole Muniz
Ashley
Tifani Bires
Margaret Gagne
Carmelle

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Herb, Kari Moncrief, Brady Provencher

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Jim Gaudette (Lynne Gaudette's step-grandson)

SERVING US IN APRIL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Barbara Weldon Morin
Sharon McGary

10:45 am
Donna Simmons
Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

TBA

USHERS

8:15
Jack & Mary Bates

10:45
Robert White

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

The deadline for the May Crier is Friday, April 26th.

The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, April 27th.

Please send all articles to Julie Clapp at juliane@julianemarie.com or leave them in the church office.

THE CRIER

APRIL 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

April 7, 14, 21

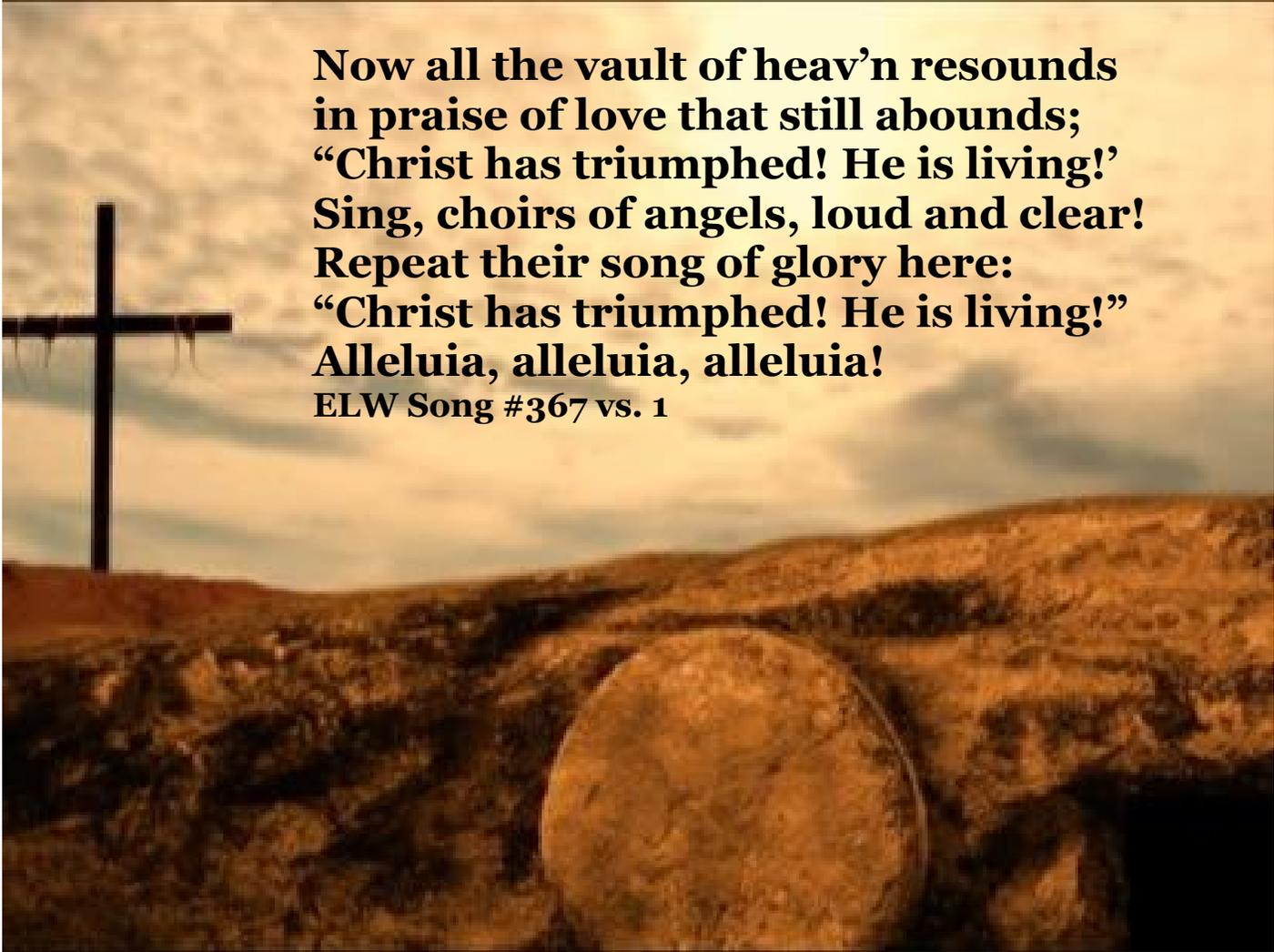
8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

April 28

10:00 Single Service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services



**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds;
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
ELW Song #367 vs. 1**