

# River of Life Lutheran Church

Chugiak, Alaska

## "Ripples" Monthly Newsletter April 2022

***Our Purpose Statement:***  
***We are a community of faith called to - glorify God -  
grow in faith and love, and - go into the world with the life-  
changing message of Jesus Christ.***

[Visit our Website](#)

### From the Pastor's Desk...

*"So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20:19*

May God bless us as we near the celebration of Jesus' resurrection once more!

Easter is my favorite celebration of the year, and it comes at just the right time. In the last two years, many of us assumed that a virus was the biggest immediate threat our world was facing. Now that it seems we are coming to the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are hearing daily news of war and violence, a situation that world leaders want to address but in such a way as to not trigger World War III. Yikes!

Closer to home, we've said goodbye to more members of our River of Life family in the past twelve months than we have in a long time. Some moved away, and some went to be with the Lord. And then there's our rebuilding after the fire! If only God would provide an answer ...

Of course, that's what the celebration of Easter is all about. "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" This month, we gather to hear once more the news that

God has defeated sin and death – Jesus has risen from the grave!

We can only imagine what it would have been like to be Jesus' disciples, locked up in that room on that Sunday evening. They had followed Jesus for three years and had sincerely come to believe that He was the One they had been waiting for, the Savior, the King. All of their hopes were bound up in Him. And then He died a horrible death (a death that He had repeatedly predicted, though it seems that they didn't understand). But then ... "Peace be with you."

It was the sound of a voice they assumed they would never hear again. And with the sound of that voice, with that word of peace, despair turned into hope and joy. Everything was different now. Jesus had conquered the grave!

"Peace be with you." Jesus, the risen One, speaks to you and to me today through His Word. He remains the conquering King, triumphant over evil and death. This news transforms everything. It's the assurance that not even the worst the world can throw at us will separate us from the love of God. It's the guarantee of the ultimate victory of good over evil. It's the source of the hope we need right now.

May God bless us as we once again celebrate the greatest news ever. May Christ's death and resurrection be our source of peace, not just this April, but every month!

Christ's peace and joy,  
Pastor Bill Ottum

## *Sunday Worship Service*

We worship at 11:00am  
in the downstairs fellowship hall of  
***Our Redeemer Lutheran Church***  
18444 Old Glenn Hwy., Chugiak, AK

Drive around to the right side of the church and park in the lower parking lot. Enter through the kitchen door! You're welcome to bring your own seat cushion!

## **Lent & Holy Week Worship Schedule**

*(All the following services are at Our Redeemer Lutheran, downstairs unless otherwise noted.)*

***Last Mid-week Lenten Worship:***

- Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – 7pm

Theme: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

*(Trinity Lutheran will join us at Our Redeemer for these services)*

***Holy Week:***

- Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – **Palm Sunday**
- Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – **Maundy Thursday**, 7pm *(Held at First Presbyterian, 1375 E. Bogard Rd., Wasilla, AK 99654 with Trinity Lutheran. Meet at ORLC at 6:15pm to carpool.)*
- Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – **Good Friday**, 7pm *(Held at Trinity in Palmer)*

***Easter:***

- Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – **Easter Breakfast** (potluck), 9:30am
  - **Easter Worship**, 11am

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## 2022 Church Council Members

President: Padi Wallace  
Vice President: Dotty Eldred  
Secretary: Mary Ann Hertzog  
Treasurer: Bob Norton  
Committee liaisons:

- Building – Terry
- Worship – Dotty
- Fellowship – Linda H.
- Outreach / Discipleship – Bob K.
- Mission – Church Council

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**Construction Update: *It's coming along!***

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## April Calendar

*You're welcome to join us each Sunday before worship for Adult Bible Study at*

10:00am.

- **Wednesday, April 6** - 6:00pm - **Building Committee** *Special Meeting*
    - 7:00pm - **Midweek Lent Service**
  
  - **Thursday, April 7** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
  - **Sunday, April 10** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
    - 11:00am - **Worship - Palm Sunday**
  
  - **Thursday, April 14** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
    - 6:15pm - Meet at ORLC to **carpool** to Wasilla
    - 7:00pm - **Maundy Thursday** Worship - First Presbyterian, Wasilla
  
  - **Friday, April 15** - 7:00pm - **Good Friday** - Trinity Lutheran, Palmer
  
  - **Sunday, April 17** - 9:30am - **Easter Potluck Breakfast**
    - 11:00am - **Easter Worship**
  
  - **Tuesday, April 19** - 6:30pm - **Church Council Meeting**
  
  - **Thursday, April 21** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
  
  - **Sunday, April 24** - 10:00am - **Adult Bible Study**
    - 11:00am - **Worship**
  
  - **Thursday, April 28** - 10:00am - **Bible Study**
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## Noisy Offering

This quarter's "Noisy Offering" goes to **Heart to Heart Pregnancy Resource Center** in Eagle River.

The *Noisy Offering* is the fourth Sunday of each month. Each quarter we collect for a different local community need.

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## Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

### Our Congregation

We pray for the health and vitality of ROL's Ministry & Mission.

### Family and Friends

We pray for continued healing, encouragement, and strength for: Bob Norton's brother **John** (healing); Kim's aunt **Susie** (pacemaker surgery); Carol's husband **Scott** (thanks and healing from successful heart surgery); Padi's friend **Larraine** (cancer treatment); **Liam** (Cindy's nephew); **Bob Reupke**; **Stewart Mee**; Joel & Padi's friend **Jack** (cancer); **Wayne Fredeen** (lung cancer); and we ask for healing and recovery for those who are facing surgery, or have had recent surgeries: **Joel**, **Terry**, and the family of Terry's friend **Bill** (who passed away).

### Prayer Partners

We pray for the health and vitality of the ministry of our other Knik Cluster congregations and their pastors: **Joy, Eagle River; Trinity, Palmer; Good Shepherd, Wasilla; Table of Grace, Bethel; and our April Prayer Partner church, St. Mark Lutheran in Anchorage.**

### Compassion for Others in Our Community

Dear Father in heaven, Creator of what is good, beautiful, and full of joy, so that all may work in harmony with you - we thank you for all the good that comes to us. May we be your children, joined together to serve you. May our life bring joy to others, and may we do good without ceasing through your great, strong love, which moves us, strengthens us, and helps us every day, however hard life may be. May your name be praised throughout the world. May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Thank you, God, for the body of believers who are called to serve you, who are proclaiming the Good News to all who will hear. From those who minister across the country to the men, women, and youth here at home, send us out to be a light in the dark. Send us out to speak life, to extend grace and mercy, to feed the hungry, to befriend the lonely, and to find the lost. Open the doors of this church and fill it with the broken, the angry, the hurting. Let them find

forgiveness and comfort here in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

## Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry

We accept food donations for the Chugiak Eagle River Food Pantry every Sunday. Please consider a donation of non-perishable food to benefit our local community. We will deliver our food offerings each month to the Food Pantry.

Thank you!

### List of Needs:

- Shopping Bags (*paper, plastic, reusable*) or Boxes (*approx. size of copy paper boxes*)
- Household cleaners (*dish soap, laundry detergent*)
- Paper towels
- Personal toiletries (*hand/body soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes*)
- Pantry supplies (*regular and gluten free: flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, spices, olive oil, etc.*)
- Saltines
- Soups/stews: Cream of Mushroom
- Pasta/Spaghetti Sauces
- Condiments (*ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, BBQ sauce, soy sauce, etc.; all regular and sugar free*)
- Hot beverages (*hot chocolate, coffee, tea*)
- Cereal (*especially LOW SUGAR, gluten free; oatmeal – long cooking, instant, variety boxes*)
- Cake Mixes & Frosting (*also decorating supplies, such as sprinkles and kid-friendly items*)

### April Birthdays

10 - Keira Twohy  
22 - Logan Eldred

### April Anniversaries

11 - Joel & Padi Wallace  
18 - Carol Baker  
24 - River of Life Lutheran (28th year)