



Reformation Lutheran Church

“Come and See, Learn and Rejoice, Go and Tell!”

April, 2019

It happens only occasionally, but once in a while Jesus doesn't tell the whole story. In his parable of the tenants from Luke 20, the action moves so swiftly that we are surprised to reach the climax of the story in seven short verses. The tenants who began in arrears are about to be arrested. They have not only refused to pay rent, they have also bruised and battered all the vineyard owner's rent collectors, including his son, whom they have defied and murdered.

Listening to the story, we are on the edge of our seats as Jesus, the master storyteller, strains us further, almost as if he were telling the story to children: "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?" He asks his audience. What, indeed! Jesus doesn't leave us waiting. He closes in on the conclusion of this act. As judge and executioner, the vineyard owner will crush the rebellion and destroy the rebels.

End of story? Not so fast.

Hidden in Jesus' forecast of the final conclusion is one word apparently not heard by the scribes and chief priests who so identified with the tenants, so thought Jesus was talking about them, that, when the story ended, they immediately sought to kill the Lord's Son.

What will the vineyard owner do? He will destroy the rebels. But the inheritance they sought to gain will be given to "others." Which others? In Jesus' first telling of this story, they are still waiting in the wings. But, on this side of the cross and empty tomb, knowing what the bible has taught us, we can supply the rest of the story.

The Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is doing a new thing. Not merely collecting rents, but deeding his kingdom to "those who love him" (James 2:5). When Jesus arrived to take the punishment for our rebellion, for our sin, he saved us "others," not because we deserved mercy but because of his goodness and grace. Because God is righteous and loving, he will punish wickedness and forgive sin, even to the granting of new and eternal life.

Then with the psalmist, our mouths will be filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy (Psalm 126).

Pr.

We're already almost a fourth of the way through the year! Can you believe it? It seems the Easter season is always a busy one what with Lenten meals/services, Holy Week, and then Easter itself. We also have two Thrivent projects going on to be completed by Easter. Whew! I know it can be hard to slow down and smell the roses as they say. I know for myself, I'm often thinking ahead at what needs to be done or where I need to be next instead of focusing on the present. This season is such an important one in the church year. I pray we all will take time to reflect on our Savior – his great sacrifice for us and his great promise to us!

Blessings to all,
Gabi

Treasurer's Report – Thanks to everyone for being faithful with your tithing! We've come out a little ahead each month so far. Thanks also to those who are participating in the "+10" for the first Sunday of each month. It's making a difference in our building fund!

Yours in Christ
Matthew DeWinter

Fellowship: We will be having a shower for Amy and Troy on Sunday, April 7, after church. Everyone is invited! On Easter Sunday there will be a breakfast before the service. Please bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet will be out Sunday. And don't forget our final Lenten meal on April 10.

Property: We will be cleaning the carpet before Easter. Work day will be Saturday the 27th

Worship and Music: We continue with Pastor Jon picking the songs, and we continue to do Sunday services at Thrive and River Place. All is going well!

Parish Education: Our first Children's Church on 3/31 was enjoyed by all the kids and is something they would like to continue. The format we agreed to use until school is out will be - a. lesson on our weekly readings like they have today during Children's Time b. Review of our Lutheran worship service format; discuss proper church etiquette and other topics related to why we do the things we do in worship.

Mission and Ministry: We have two Thrivent grant card projects in the works. One card helps us provide Easter baskets for the children at Damascus Way. The other card allows us to provide Easter treat bags to our friends at Riverplace and Thrive.

April Birthdays

None that I am aware of.

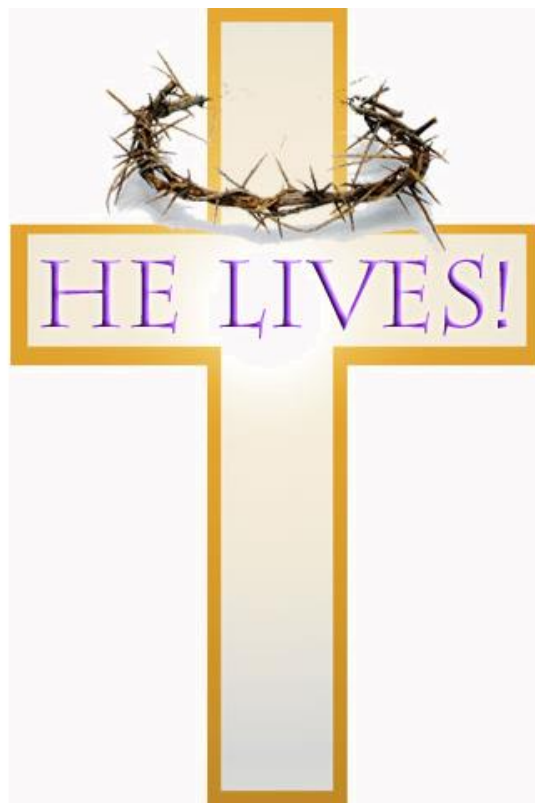
Jesus loves me, this I know;
The Easter story tells me so.
He died for me to bear my sin;
He opened heaven to let me in.

Jesus loved me when He died,
Loved me enough to be crucified.
But His death didn't last very long,
Because His power is so strong.

Jesus came back from the dead
I know because the Bible said.
Jesus is my Lord and King;
Love and praise to Him I bring.

The Easter story brings much joy
To us all, each girl and boy.
Jesus is my Savior now;
Heaven and earth to Him must bow.

Yes, Jesus loves me;
Yes Jesus loves me;
Yes Jesus loves me;
Easter tells me so!





Sunday – April 8th – Shower for Amy and Troy following service

Wednesday– April 10th –Lenten meal 6:00, Lenten service 7:00

Sunday – April 14th Palm Sunday –Executive council

Friday – April 19th – Good Friday –service at 7:00

Sunday – April 21st- Easter Sunday! – breakfast beginning at 9:00
Service at 10:30

Saturday – April 27th – Clean up day beginning at 9:00

Sunday – April 28th - Council

	<u>Apr. 7th</u>	<u>Apr. 14th</u>	<u>Apr. 21st</u>	<u>Apr. 28th</u>
Altar Guild	Linda	Wayne	Carolyn	Judy
Worship Asst.	Gabi	Chuck	Amy	Wayne
Communion Asst.	Matthew	Mel	Junior	Chuck
Usher	Judy	Junior	Mel	Judy
Lector	Mel	Junior	Chuck	Amy
Children’s Sermon	Gabi	Kathy	Wayne	Gabi
Sermon	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Tea`
Riverplace	Pastor	Wayne	Gabi	Tea`
Thrive	Chuck	Pastor	Pastor	Chuck

