



Rush River Reminder

April 2017

Worship Service @ 10:30 AM

Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

Thoughts from Pastor Dave:

“They shouted...No, not Jesus! Give us Barabbas!” John 18:40

Crowds are powerful. Crowds can change destinies. That surely happened when guilty Barabbas was set free and innocent Jesus was condemned. The gospel records the power of the crowd resulting in death for Jesus.

Pilate, Roman Governor in Jerusalem, doubted Jewish claims that Jesus deserved death. He offered to free Jesus. The people would have none of it. They rejected Jesus for Barabbas, a notorious assassin and murderer.

Public opinion is still powerful today. Many would reject Jesus in favor of someone or something instead. Many would refuse help in the name of loyalty to an economic system. As Christians, our loyalty is to Jesus and not to any kind of system. As I write this, I am troubled by the Health Care debate in our country. Some politicians seem to live in a bubble with no understanding of how many people have to live. In our country, we, too, have to make choices, some are good and some bad. We stand with our Lenten Theme of Biblical people who made bad and good choices. Remember even good people can make bad choices. We know by God's Grace we have life and salvation. Barabbas was also one for whom Christ died. I don't know what became of Barabbas. Did Jesus' disciples seek him out and convince him of God's love? I hope they did.

Peace,

Pastor Dave

Remember the Holy Week schedule: Palm Sunday with First Communion 10:30 AM; Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 PM; Good Friday service 6:30 PM. Easter Morning Breakfast 9:15 and Easter Worship service, 10:30 AM.

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Remembering our friends and family in prayer: Adelaide Boettcher, Katie Brown, Alicia Davis, Betty DeRoy (Carol Bennett's sister-in-law), Allen Ecker (Carol Bennett's brother), Glenn Knutson, the family of Kathy Kullman (Bob & Toni's cousin), Lois Lukasiewicz, Betty Monicken, Ellen Monicken-Knuth, Gene Nelson, Mark Nelson, Evan Peterson (Jon & Linda Anderson's neighbor-friend), Margaret Ramberg, Wayne Ramberg, Steve & Roberta Sylla, Angie Symanietz, and Betty Zappa (Roberta Sylla's sister).

If you would like your name added, or to add anyone else to our list, please call Kathy Swenson at 715-425-6046 or see the church website at rushriverlutheran.org/prayer-request.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Kathy Kullman (Bob Swenson and Toni Lubich's cousin), who passed away on Wednesday, March 8th.



Please submit your news items to the office **by email** or **drop them in the basket on the office desk!**
May newsletter items are due by April 20th.
Thank you!

Elevator Capital Goal Met!

It was just late last May, when at a congregational meeting, this congregation voted to replace our old elevator with a new hydraulically powered elevator at a total cost of \$56,740.00. The congregation voted to fund it with special gifts and matching dollars from the estate of Gordon Bakke.

Certainly, funding half of the total cost of the project through legacy dollars from the estate of Gordy was a huge plus. Still, this congregation was committed to funding \$28,370.00 of the project. I think we all thought we could do it, but there were times along the way when the commitment looked a bit overwhelming.

We certainly had some things going for us in funding the project. Everyone realized that RRLC needed to have a safe and dependable elevator to make our church home accessible for everyone. Also, the overwhelming thinking of the congregation was that the safest financial decision for our church was to replace our twenty-five-year-old non-working elevator rather than to attempt an expensive repair that offered no guarantee.

Never the less, to be able for us to announce that the total funding has been met in just ten months is really a credit to the members, friends and groups within this congregation. It means that special gifts have averaged over \$2,800.00 per month.

Thanks to you for your financial support, commitment and investment in the future of RRLC. Thanks to the groups within this congregation for their support and to the legacy left by Gordy Bakke.

The Elevator Capital Campaign Committee consisting of Paula Knutson, Emily Pierson, Ione Hayes, Roberta Sylla, Annette Kelly, David Austrum and myself invite you to a little celebration of the culmination of the project on Sunday, April 9th after service.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST,
Don



**ELEVATOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
HAS BEEN MET**

**THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU**

Come celebrate after church service on April 9th!!



Holy Week Volunteer Schedule:

Maundy Thursday, April 13 Reader: Wanda Wells;

Ushers: Tom & Ariel Stephan, Dennis & Diane Friese

Good Friday, April 14 Reader: Paula Knutson; Ushers: Tom & Ariel Stephan, Dennis & Diane Friese

(Wednesday, April 5 Reader: Dennis Friese)

April 2017 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Dave's office hours: Wed & Thurs; 10 am-12	Linda's office hours: Wed & Thurs, 10 – 1:30					1
2 9:15 am Sunday School ; 10:30 am Worship	3 Men in Mission , 6:30 pm	4 St. Croix Valley Pastor's Conf.	5 Soup supper 5:30-6:15 Service 6:30; Choir rehearsal follows service	6 Quilters , 9 AM	7	8 Peace Circle, 9 AM @ RRLC , Gloria Davis, hostess
9 Palm Sunday - 9:15 am Sunday School ; 10:30 am Worship	10	11 Council Mtg. , 6:30 PM	12 Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	13 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM; Maundy Thursday service , 6:30 PM	14 Good Friday service , 6:30 PM	15
16 Easter Sun. Breakfast, 9:15; Worship , 10:30m (No Sunday School)	17	18	19 Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	20 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM Newsletter items due	21	22
23 9:15 am Sunday School ; 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26	27 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM	28	29 Synod Assembly
30 9:15 am Sunday School ; 10:30 am Worship						

Worship Leaders in April

	Readers	Communion Assistant	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Preparation
Apr 2	Ione Hayes	Karen Knutson	Jane Swenson & Karen Miller	Jerid Peterson, Gene Larson, Bruce Ramberg, Ione Hayes	Paula Knutson & Lisa Kotz
Apr 9	Sunday School Students		Don & Loree Austrum	Jerid Peterson, Gene Larson, Bruce Ramberg, Ione Hayes	
Apr 16	David Austrum	Karen Knutson	Danielson Family	Jim Knutson Family	Paula Knutson & Lisa Kotz
Apr 23	Lisa Kotz		Bob & Lisa Kotz	Jim Knutson Family	
Apr 30	Kelly Ebbens		Arnie & Evie Roen	Jim Knutson Family	

Thank you to Roberta Sylla for baking communion bread for the month of March!

Thank you to Ariel Stephan for faithfully ringing the church bell!

February Income: \$6,765.75	February Expenses: \$4,741.04
Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments or for more information if you would like any. Roberta Sylla, Treasurer	

EASTER MESSAGE from Bishop Rick Hoyme

By the time you read this, one major event in our synod will have been completed and the next one will be just around the corner. The completed one will be “Walking Together” when 400+ folks will have gathered to learn, to laugh and to walk together toward a new future. The “around the corner” event will be our annual Synod Assembly in April. But, both events will be tied together by the theme: **BOLDLY Invite... ONE More!** With the symbol of a big RED door, emblazoned with Luther’s seal, we will be challenged to get the word out about Jesus!



But, here’s the Easter connection. When we were picking a theme verse for the events, the verse we chose was from Mark 16:15. In this verse, Jesus says, “Go into all the world.” And, seemingly, the women and even some men did just that!

As we were picking this verse, we also were laughing, because it comes from what is called “The Longer Ending of Mark.” The ending of Mark that is from the oldest manuscripts says this, “So they (the women) went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them: *and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*”

I often refer to this last verse as the “Lutheran Ending” of the gospel of Mark. “They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

We are Lutheran, and we need no longer be afraid! We live in a culture where our neighbors are hungry for good news, they are hungry for life, and they are hungry for love. Our churches can give them all of those things. The day is over when we can silently leave the empty tomb at Easter and tell no one. So this is my Easter challenge to every one of you who takes the time to read these words: **“BOLDLY invite... ONE more!”**

This year, before Easter, you, and everyone in your family, invite one person to come and worship with you. If you have family who live somewhere else, but who do not have a church, encourage them...”I sure hope you can find a church for this Sunday!” Be BOLD. What’s the worst that can happen? Let the *amazement* overcome the *fear*.

We have the amazing privilege of getting up on that Sunday morning and worshipping the God of Easter! I for one will make sure I share that with not just one person, but I commit to sharing it with everyone that will give me the opportunity. What’s the worst that can happen????

BOLDLY, Invite... ONE More!

Bishop Rick Hoyme
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA



Come join us on Easter morning for our Annual Easter Breakfast!!

**Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Biscuits & Sausage Gravy,
Croissants, Fruit, Juice/Coffee/Milk**

Serving from 9:15-10:15

Free Will offering will go to the ELCA Hunger Relief Fund!



Aging and Disability Resource Center News

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ARDC) of St. Croix County will be providing Memory Screen events at the local Senior Centers in St. Croix County. Please see the flyer on the church bulletin board for locations and dates (or call the church office to request this information).



Ultimate Car Wash Cards Available

- Undercarriage Flush
 - Presoak
- High Pressure Wash or Soft Foam Wash
- Triple Shine Vehicle Enhancer/Cleaner
- Spot Free Rinse
- 95 Second Super Dry

Does your car need a wash? We can help! The Ultimate Car Wash Card is good at any Kwik Trip or Kwik Star Store. It includes 5 Ultimate Car Washes for \$36.00. The best part is that a portion of all sales stays here at Rush River Lutheran! Please contact Emily at 715.760.0573 with any questions or for your card!

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"The cross has the power to free you from grudges, grief, and resentment."



Lost and Found

A ring and two bracelets have been found at RRLC. Please contact the church office to claim if any of these belong to you.



Save the Date!

Our 70th Annual

Harvest Dinner and Country Store

September 24, 2017

Preparations have begun for our 70th Annual Harvest Dinner celebration! The Harvest Dinner Committee is meeting regularly and invite you to join us. We are meeting weekly from 9:30 – 10 a.m. currently before church in the basement conveniently located close to the coffee and any treats!

We are planning on including special ways to honor this milestone and need your help. As we delve into the history of the dinner we are learning about how it has changed over the years. Please share your memories and pictures with us by reaching out to a committee member or emailing us at harvestdinnerrlc@gmail.com with questions.

Lisa Anderson 715-273-6697

Karen Miller 715-425-5040

Ione Hayes 715-273-5935

Annette Kelley 715-262-5528

Karen Knutson 715-760-2690

Loree Austrum 715-235- 1802

Murlona Austrum 715-549- 6580

Please Join Us!

Syttende Mai grande parade Woodville, WI

Noon on Saturday, May 20, 2017

We will be walking with the King of Grot and Queen of Lefse to spread the word on our upcoming 70th Annual Harvest Dinner! Please plan to join us in the parade!

Thank You!

*A new flag has been donated to RRLC by the Frey and Dusk families, given in honor of Beaner Frey!
Thank you for your donation!!*



Upcoming Events



Annual Synod Assembly: April 29, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire

10th W/ELCA Triennial, "All Anew": July 13-19, 2017, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

Lutheran Men In Mission: BOLD GATHERING: July 21-23, 2017, Marriott City Center, Minneapolis, MN; www.boldgathering.com.

Watch for more information to come!



Upcoming Events in 2017 for Our Neighbor's Place:

Fri, May 19 ~ Yard Sale, Open House, Community Meal – Stop by for a tour of the Day Center, shop for a good deal, and join us for a picnic style meal; **Sat, Sept 9** ~ Kinni River Trout Trot – 5K, Half Marathon, 20 mile course relays, FREE Kids Obstacle Course; **Thurs, Sept 28** ~ Community Connect – Meet with non-profit agencies and service providers, community meal, and free garage sale room.



Where LWR Quilts Went in 2016

By [Lutheran World Relief](http://LutheranWorldRelief.org)

A nonprofit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty



In 2016, thanks to the generosity of Lutherans all across the United States, Lutheran World Relief shipped 534,144 Quilts & Kits to 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. That's *amazing!*



We give thanks to all the quilters and kit-makers who gather throughout the year to assemble these gifts of love for our brothers and sisters around the world.

"Give God your weakness and He'll give you His strength."

FREE BIKES 4 KIDZ

On Saturday, April 22, from 9 AM to Noon at the River Falls Area Hospital, there will be a FREE bike giveaway for children ages Pre-K-12th grade for any child in need! This is on a first-come, first-served basis. Bikes and helmets are sized to fit the child—children must be present, and a parent or guardian must be present to sign a waiver. If you have any questions, contact Heather at 715-307-6001.



Tea Times ~ by Katie Anderson



Train of Thought

Today as I took the train from London back to Winchester, I had a realization that train rides seem to be good for my mental health. Most of the train rides I take are an hour or longer, which has proved to be a great time for me to just sit with myself and reflect. I think when I'm on the train is the main time I really feel like I have time for myself. Even on my days off, I tend to stick around Winchester and feel like there are things I should be doing. On the train, I just sit and listen to music. For a few years, I've struggled with my mental health, and a few weeks ago on a train ride, I realized that I'm finally doing better. Train rides have also been a great time for me to appreciate how lucky I am to have this experience: living in England, growing my faith, and making some amazing relationships along the way.

Translation Station

Americans and Brits speak the same language. Except when we don't. I was prepared for "jumper" to mean sweater and "pants" to mean underwear. Here are some I wasn't ready for.

Bin

Bin is how the Brits refer to a garbage can. That part I'm pretty used to. The challenge I still have is when I'm trying to describe various types of storage items as bins. They're not totes or boxes, so I often find myself using the word bin, only to be questioned by someone as to why I would throw away whatever I'm talking about.



One weekend in January, a couple of the other gaps and I walked along the River Itchen. It was a really pretty day, but it still seems crazy to me that there wasn't any snow in the middle of January.

Looking Behind, Looking Ahead

In the past few weeks, I've been trying to look into my YAGM year from both ends. I had a self-review on what I've accomplished so far, and a joint review with the chaplain on goals for the rest of the year. At the same time, an application for next year's chaplain's assistant came in. From these, the chaplain and I have been doing a lot of reflecting on what my YAGM year means for me. My faith has grown so much in the past six months, and I really found a sense for what I want to do with my life when I go home. It's been really great to be working with the chaplain as I go through this to have his encouragement and support in discussing my plans for my future. On the other hand, that reminds me that my YAGM year is half over. It feels strange to imagine that life goes on as normal here after I leave. For the school, having a group of gap assistants is just a normal year, but for those gaps, it's the experience of a lifetime. The girls in house have become such a huge part of my life, it feels how parents must feel when their kids go off to school; some new person steps into their lives and gets to see them grow into the young adults they'll become. Despite the heavy heart I have when I think about leaving this experience behind, I'm still excited for what's in store for my future.



(photo taken from St. Mary's Church in Oxford)

The Visit

I've had my parents visiting over half-term break. It's been really great to be able to show them some sights around England, and the places that have become so important to me while I've been here. One of the hard things about being so far away from home is that when I talk about the people and places I see, it doesn't mean as much to people who have never been here. For all the pictures I take, or how detailed a description I write of my year, it will never be the same as experiencing these places in person. Having my family here has meant that the people I talk to the most know what I'm talking about when I tell them about places I've been. It's also been great to get to experience some places for the first time with them. In the middle of this year away from home, I can have shared experiences with my parents. Having them here also reminded me not to judge a book by its cover. I thought we had seen pretty much everything Winchester had to offer. Instead, my parents suggested we walk further up the High Street, and we ended up seeing some of the buildings from when Winchester was the capital of England. It often takes the perspective of people experiencing something for the first time to point out what's right in front of our eyes. I hope I can keep my eyes open to new exploring and new experiences.

Thank you for your support! As I continue my year, I would be grateful for any personal, spiritual, or financial support you would be willing to provide.

HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

Online: Check out my online giving page

at http://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1038970&pg=personal&fr_id=1181

By phone: Call 800-638-3522 and specify "Katie Anderson GCS3309."

By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Katie Anderson GCS3309" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Contributions are tax deductible.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Rush River Lutheran Church

N8623 County Road Y
River Falls, WI 54022



Wednesday Lenten services @ 6:30 PM through April 5th
(Soup supper precedes each Wednesday service at 5:30 – 6:15 PM)

Palm Sunday with First Communion, 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday service, April 13: 6:30 PM

Good Friday Service, April 14: 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday Breakfast, 9:15 – 10:15 AM

Easter Worship Service 10:30 AM



Rush River Lutheran Church ~ April 2017

Worship Service at 10:30 AM ~ Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Church contact information:

Pastor Dave mobile: 715-557-0095 home: 715-268-9663

Church: 715-684-3701



Website

www.RushRiverLutheran.org



Facebook

[Facebook.com/RushRiverLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/RushRiverLutheran)



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