St. John's Epistle April 2023

A Newsletter of
St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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Fisherman õCome, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

Our annual õFish Fry Frenzyö has been called off this year. It is not for the lack of effort. Many of us fished as much as we possibly could but didnøt have a great deal of success (or at least I didnøt). There were many reasons why this happened. The ice conditions were not that great. The snow continued to pile up causing lakes to have slush on them. It was hard to get to commonly fished õhot spots.ö It all comes down to the fact it was just a different type of year!

We also hear about fish during Jesusø ministry. Twice He multiplied bread and fish to make meals for thousands of people. Peter had fished all night and didnøt catch any fish. Jesus came to Peter, gave him a tip, and it worked. They caught so many fish their boats began to sink. (Luke 5:7) After His resurrection, He did the same for seven of His disciples and they hauled in 153 fish. (John 21:11) John even tells us the nets didnøt get torn. Then, on the shore of Galilee, the risen Lord took bread and fish and fed His disciples. (John 21:13)

We hear about two other miracles that involved fish in the Bible. Jonah was rescued by a large fish through Godøs work. "And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." (Jonah 1:17) This foretold the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40) The other miracle was when Peter caught a fish with a shekel in its mouth, which Peter used to pay the temple tax. (Matthew 17:27)

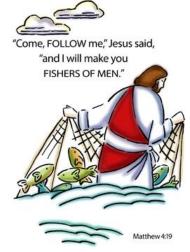
Since the people lived around the Sea of Galilee, they depended on fishing for their livelihood. It is no surprise that Jesus recruited His first disciples from among fisherman. There was Peter, Andrew, James, and John who were all professional fisherman. Yet, when called by Jesus, they gladly traded their fishing nets for the great honor of being able to be "Fishers of Men." In fact, all Christians are called to be spiritual fisherman. With the net of the gospel, they catch people for Christ.

Itos true, we didnot have the greatest success at catching fish this winter, but letos all pray that God will gives us, with the

help of the Holy Spirit, the motivation and desire, to do everything we can to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Craig S. Zandi



Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplain¢s office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don¢t assume the hospital will do it, because they won¢t. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Acolytes: Ushers
Altar Guild: Kim Grabowski
Finance: Jackie Dolan & Tammy Busse

Worship Assistants for April

Sunday, Apr 2 Elder: Ray Tousey

Palm Sunday Greeters: Sally & Terry Schar

Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis FlaterCaptain, Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey,

Kurt Harris

Thursday, Apr 6 Elder: Randy Scott

Maundy Thursday Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain,

Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier,

Gene Zillmer

Friday, Apr 7 Elder: Tom Rosolowski

Good Friday Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain,

Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson,

Russ Thompson

Sunday, Apr 9 Elder: Sam Barg

Easter Greeters: Sue & John Monnier

Ushers: Team 1: Dave Scott-Captain,

Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski,

Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask

Sunday, Apr 16 Elder: Randy Scott

LWML Greeters: Lois Hoople & Cali, Cameren, Alice

Mites In Ushers: Team 2: Dave Kmosena- Captain,

Gathering Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,

Lee Purdy

Sunday, Apr 23 Elder: Tim Dolan

Stewardship Greeters: Helen & Bob Patrick

Ushers: Team 2: Dave Kmosena- Captain,

Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd,

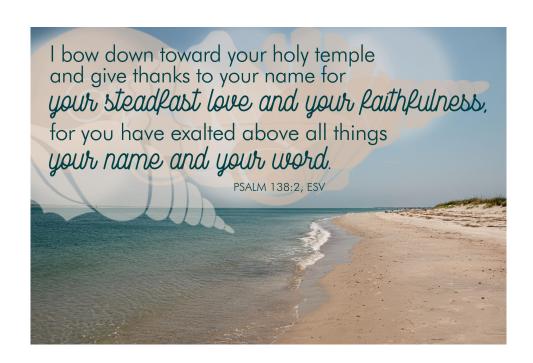
Lee Purdy

Sunday, Apr 30 Elder: Ray Tousey

Greeters: Roberta Baye

Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis FlaterCaptain, Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey,

Kurt Harris







What Luther says:

In view of the divine message they had to proclaim, one may well ask why God chose His apostles, as a rule, from among the lowly. Luther answers this question in a sermon preached on St Andrews Day, November 30. The Gospel for this day is the story of the calling of the first disciples, among them Andrew (Matthew 4:18-22)

The question is why Christ called such simple, plain folk to the apostleship and not some wealthy, mighty, learned, and holy people, who would at least have enjoyed the esteem of the world. Three reasons may be given. First, in order to show the power and might of God, in that He began and also carried out a work so great with people so insignificant and simple. Men should see that it was not done by human power but by power and might divine. For the purpose of all the works of God is to make a fool of the world, so that it should not and cannot by its reason fathom Godøs workingí The second reason: to keep one from thinking that God is a respecter of persons, choosing the wealthy, noble, wise and despising the poor, simple, unlearned. And God has proved by many, as by David, and others, that He is not a respecter of personsí Thirdly Christ wanted to choose simple poor folk for the ministry that they might find it all the easier to follow Him; for no man of wealth would have followed Him at once and let go his possessions, because wealth is a great hindrance in following Christ. (WLS p.41-42)

A minister should see to it that personal pride and conceit have no voice whatever in matters pertaining to the call. Let him continue faithfully to use what gifts he has wherever he is. If God wants him elsewhere, He will find him, says Luther in a sermon preached on St. Andrewøs Day, November 30, with

Matthew 4:18-22 as his text.

This second calling is done through men; (in preceding context Luther had spoken of the direct call of some, prophets and apostles, by God and Christ) yet it is also done by God, namely, through means. And this is a calling of love, when, for instance, someone from the people is chosen bishop or preacher, some person who, we trust, has the Word of God and is able to impart it to others by his teaching and preaching. Here we should carefully see to it that there is no evil design, that no one in any way obtrudes himself as a preacher, either to get a livelihood or to gain honor. For this is dangerous, nor will it ever turn out well. If you would present it to other faithfully and profitably, then wait. If God wants it, He will have no trouble finding you. My friend, do not let your ability burst your belly. God has not forgotten you. If you are to preach His Word, He will no doubt call on you to do so at His own time. Do not determine the time limit or the place for Him. (WLS p. 939)

"In God's Great Outdoors: Devotions for Hikers, Campers, and Nature Lovers.

"Our former member, **Rob Schrader**, has written a book called *In God's Great Outdoors: Devotions for Hikers, Campers, and Nature Lovers*. It contains 40 devotions that connect the Creator to His creation and will edify your faith and your time outdoors. If you'd like to purchase the book you can find it on Amazon by typing the title in the search bar. All profits from the book go to support Christian outdoor organizations."



Preschoolers have been working really hard practicing their songs for church on April 2nd. We hope to see you there!

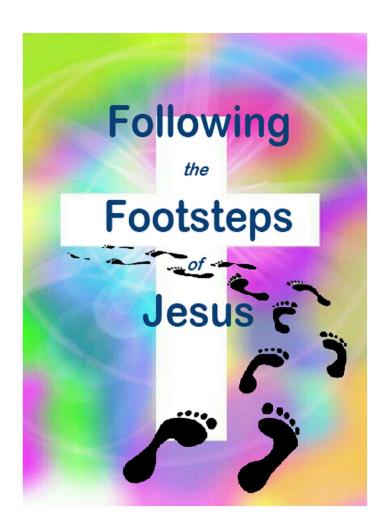
For the month of April, our Bible lessons will be about Jesus riding in to Jerusalem and His death and resurrection. We will be able to see what a real crown of thorns is like.

We will be finishing up learning the letters of the alphabet. We will then begin reviewing until the end of the year. They have been doing an amazing job!

We continue to work on colors, shapes, and numbers.

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser! We made just over \$2,000 profit. We appreciate you!

Thank you also to our Bible Buddies for their time spent on us. We appreciate you too!



Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Everyone is invited to join in the activity/craft stations that remind us of Jesus' Walk through Holy Week – immediately following our Sunday morning worship service.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry – April 2023

A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, õHow much should I give?ö That question really means, õShould Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?ö

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isnot necessary because it isnot expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no õThus saith the Lord,ö or õshouldö concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

Then there are those who think Christians shouldnot tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there wonot be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesnot specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. On top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of oneon income, 2 Cor. 8:7623; 2 Cor. 9:267.

Here another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? õThe Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospelö (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechismos Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe

is the goal of Christians in their giving. How should we handle this? What are we to do?

The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways ô time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way that will be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? If He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disaRemembrances From Past Bulletins:

A historical item from past bulletins

What's The Gospel According To You?

There's a sweet old story translated for man

But writ in the long, long ago.

The Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Of Christ and His mission below!

Men read and admire that Gospel of Christ,

With its love so unfailing and true

But what do you say and what do they think

of the gospel according to you?

'Tis a wonderful story, the Gospel of love

As it shines in the Christ-life divine.

And O, that its truth might be told once again

In the story of your life and mine!

Unselfishness mirrors in every scene,

Love blossoms on every sod,

And back from its visions the heart comes to tell

The wonderful goodness of God!

You are writing each day a letter to all

Take care that the writing is true;

'Tis the only gospel that many will read,

That "Gospel according to you."

Anonymous

April 2

SUN	MON	TUE	Τ
Everything is subje	O		
Facebook. and/or p	hone the Church	office 715-532-57	78 (
2 Palm Sunday 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship No Bible Study Lenten Fair No Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	3 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	4 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM BOCE/YM	5 8
9 Easter Sunday Caring and Sharing	10 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	11 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	1 8
9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) Easter Brunch after service		0.00 1.100.2.2 1.000.002	1
No Bible Study No Sunday School			1
			6
16 LWML Mites Ingathering 9:00AM Worship Bible Study after worship 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	17 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	18 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM FAP Quilt Guild 6:00PM Council	1 8 6
		NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	
	St John St John		
23 Stewardship Sunday 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) Bible Study after worship	24 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	25 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	8
10:15-11:15AM Sunday School			6
30 9:00AM Worship Voters Meeting 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School			



HOLY WEEK 2023

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY-APRIL 6, 2023- WATER AND BLOOD

Jesus was baptized into death through water and blood, and on this night, we celebrate receiving the testament which our Lord inaugurated in the Lordø Supper. Godøs people appreciate why both water and blood poured out of Jesusø side when He died on the cross and how they still pour out to us now in His forgiving sacraments.

GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 7, 2023-THE OLD RUGGED, WOODEN CROSS

The wood of Jesusø cross brings peace, forgiveness, and salvation. By it, the lives of Christians are rescued, sweetened, and lightened.

EASTER SUNDAY-APRIL 9, 2023- WELCOME TO THE PROMISED LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

As Joshua led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, so Jesus crossed the river of death by His death and resurrection and leads us to the promised land of heaven, which will never end. Although the promised land of heaven is not ours in its fullness yet, heaven still meets earth because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.



Youth EASTER BREAKFAST Sunday, April 9th

Immediately following our Easter Worship Service

Everyone is invited to join us in the fellowship hall for a delicious EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST prepared by the youth of St. Johns.

Menu Includes

Egg Bake
Cinnamon Rolls
Fresh Fruit
Juice and Coffee

~ Thank you for supporting our youth ~

Provided by Saint John's Ladies Society

How to make a palm cross 1 Take a palm Then bend the About a third of the that is about 2 top end down way from the bend you just made, bend feet long and and toward you 1/2" wide (if it and crease palm tapers at the diagonally top, this is good). Hold the palm upright, so the tapered end points toward the ceiling. About an inch away from the Fold that same section at a point stem of the cross, bend the that equals the length on the right palm back behind the stem: side, bend it on the left side and bring the end forward. so that it is now facing to your left. Make the bend at a good length to form the right arm of the cross. and then fold From the center of the Fold down and cross, fold to the upper it toward the to the left behind right so that it right so that it can the cross is parallel and wrap around under the where the "stem" and the arms of the right arm CFOSS. intersect. 11 Turn over! Bring Tuck in the end it up to finish behind the cross again, this time folding it up toward the northwest direction. www.armenianchurch.net

Saturday, April 8, 2023 10AM, LWML Bible Study, "God's Chosen People, Yesterday and Today". All the women of the congregation are

invited to attend. If you would like a copy of the Bible study it is found in the LWML mailbox. The LWML mailbox is located in the lower right hand corner of the mailboxes.





Gifts from the Heart

2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
At each convention LWML members and groups share God's blessings with
others through Gifts from the Heart (GFTH). The following is the list of GFTH
items St. John's is collecting for the Milwaukee convention in June 2023.

Phil's Friends:

- · Puzzle books
- Journals
- · Playing cards (regular)
- Fuzzy socks
- Hats (knit, crochet, or baseball)
- Walmart Gift cards* (any denomination) * It is very important that the amount of each gift card be written on each card in permanent marker

Phil Zielke is a two-time stage four cancer survivor and founder and president of Phil's Friends. He lives in St. Charles, Illinois, with his wife Carrie and two sons, Graham and Hudson.

Phil's Friends sends care packages around the nation to comfort those affected by cancer. The care packages open doors to a relationship and bring opportunities to share the Gospel. With the help of the LWML, they have distributed 45,000 Bibles and delivered over 1,000,000 Cards of Hope containing Scripture and prayer. They have prayed for thousands of people at hospital bedsides, in homes, over the phone, and in support group meetings.

Thank you for your support of the 2023 Gifts from the Heart & sharing the love of Christ!

Mission Grant Story



Building Relationships While Spreading the Gospel in Belize

Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus Seine Bight, Belize — \$100,000

2021–2023 Blennium Mission Goat: \$2,150,000 Mission Grant #21 \$100,000

How then will

they call on him in

whom they have

not believed? And

how are they to

believe in him of

whom they have

never heard?

(Romans 10:14).

Seine Bight, a coastal village in southern Belize with a population of over 1,200 people, struggles with poverty, a high unemployment rate, young single motherhood, and a literacy rate of only 79 percent. The country of Belize, along with this village, hosts a variety of religious influences, many of which are misunderstood and combined by the people. Christ Lutheran Church, located in Seine Bight, is the first Lutheran church in Belize, and was founded in 2019 by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Belize Mission Society.

Belize Mission Society (BMS), a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, began in 2003 with seven volunteers on a short-term mission trip providing Vacation Bible School (VBS) to 180 children. The mission has expanded over the years, with construction projects, dental and medical clinics, adult and youth Bible studies, sports programs, an education tutor program, scholarship programs, and an elementary school lunch program.

In 2009, it was noted that many of the students at the village's school did not have food for lunch. BMS worked with a local resident to begin feeding 30 students in her home, resulting in a program called "Food for Thought". Teachers noticed an improvement in students' test scores and increased attention in class. As BMS contributions increased, an empty classroom was turned into a kitchen and lunchroom for 60–65 students, 20 percent of the school's enrollment. A larger space is needed to provide food to more children.

Currently, the BMS dental clinic is in the multi-purpose building in the village. The multi-purpose building also holds mission team supplies, such as VBS supplies, dental and physical therapy equipment, and construction equipment. The contract with the village to use the multi-purpose building expires in 2024 and the village does not wish to renew it.

This mission grant will allow the building of a Mercy House on property located next to Christ Lutheran Church and the village school. It will be run by BMS in cooperation with Christ Lutheran Church. The Belize Lutheran Campus will be a focal point for tutoring children, VBS activities, adult Bible studies, medical and dental services, serving meals to students, sharing the Gospel of Jesus, and supporting short-term mission team activities.

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). By building Mercy House next to the church, relationship building of the BMS with local residents will provide a tangible connection to Christ Lutheran Church. By caring for the physical needs of the people of Seine Bight, missionaries will be able to share the saving relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





Building Relationships While Spreading the Gospel in Belize

Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus Seine Bight, Belize — \$100,000



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(Romans 10:14).

Prayer #1

Dear Heavenly Father, please allow the Mercy House in Seine Bight, Belize to be used as a tool to show Jesus to the school children and families who will be impacted by it. Bless this mission grant and all our missionaries who work in this area of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #2

Father, thank You for the opportunity to build a Mercy House in Seine Bight, Belize. Please use this mission grant to help LCMS missionaries and short-term teams share the love of Jesus by providing food and medical services. Help people come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. In His name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #3

Dear Jesus, You asked that children be brought to You. We ask that You bless this mission grant; that by building a Mercy House in Belize, Your will is done. Through sharing the Good News with these school children and their families, may they come to know Your saving grace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #4

Father in heaven, thank You for the opportunity to build a Mercy House in Belize. We ask that You be with Belize Mission Society and Christ Lutheran Church as they strive to feed the people of Seine Bight with food to fill their physical needs and with Your Word to fill their spiritual hunger. Please bless this mission grant so that Your Word may spread to all people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants



The Next Caring and Sharing Sunday is April 9th

This is your opportunity to show you care for the hungry in our community by making a donation to the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern for the hungry children in our community by making a donation to the Back Pack Program.

Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month! Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if

you have any questions.

Rada Knives

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives, please contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095
All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.
Orders are processed quickly! *They make great Christmas and wedding gifts.*

Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships.

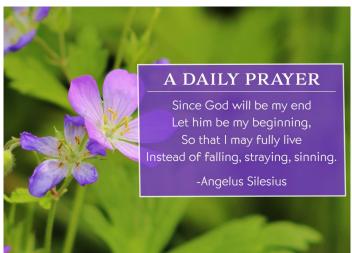
No invitation needed!



Birthday Mondays!

Monday, **April 3rd** at 11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

All are welcome!





Men's Bible Study will be on Thursday, April 6th & 20th; 7:00AM at the Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- Aluminum cans for Preschool
- ♦ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- ♦ Greeting cards
- ♦ Used eye glasses
- ♦ Soft eyeglass cases



Please, leave only aluminum cans! We cannot take aluminum foil, plates, etc.; aluminum cans only! Thanks for your assistance.

Submit Your Information!

ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on <u>Tuesday</u> by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays). Newsletter items are due in the office no later than close of day on the <u>Tuesday</u> preceding the last Sunday of the month.

E-mail to: stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net (preferred method).

Don't forget that LARGE PRINT bulletins and newsletters are available for those who need them. Contact the office to get your name on the list!





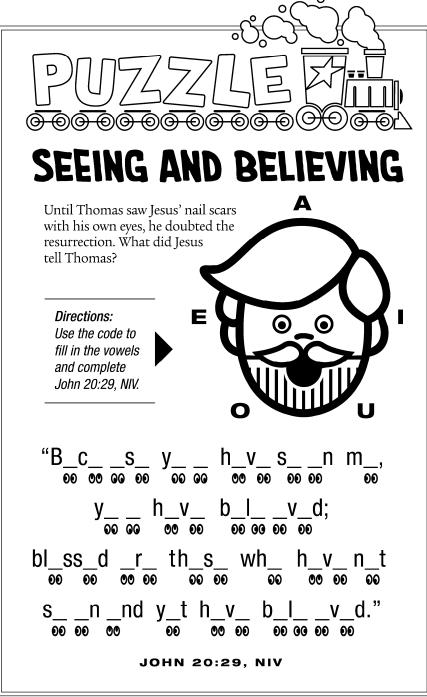
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sam Barg, Martha Basham, Jackie Dolan
- 6 Duane Phetteplace, Harold Thummel
- 10 Carolin Roelse
- 11 Aaron Lee
- 12 Claire Harbes
- 13 Mark VanWey
- 14 Chuck Mogensen
- 15 Dustyn Holman
- 20 Karen Carlson, Lisa Moreau, Connie Solsrud
- 21 Rachel Hauser, Lexi Zunker,
- Nancy Rosolowski, Ronald Slagoski III
- 24 Roberta Baye, Sally Schar
- 28 Rachel Berry
- 29 Jocelyn Powers
- 30 Jason Balko



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Donald & Suzanne Ptacek
- 19 Arvid & Livija Held
- 25 Karl & Lisa Howe
- 30 Tom & Nancy Rosolowski



Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, MIV