

St. Peter Lutheran

April 2025 Newsletter

- April 2nd – Supper, 5:30 p.m., Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m. Worship Leader is Darold Bitterman.
Council Meeting to follow the service. Ladies A – J are asked to bring bars/cookies.
- April 5th - Men's Breakfast Bible Study at 8:00 a.m. Study leader is Pastor Czymbor.
Answer's in Genesis Women's Conference, 8:00 a.m.
Breakfast provided by the women for both.
- April 6th – Communion Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
~ Free Will Offering during fellowship for Rodney and Malinda Hinrichs' "Reaching the Unreached"
- April 8th - Quilting Workday beginning at 1:00 p.m
- April 9th – Supper, 5:30 p.m., Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m. Worship Leader is Maurice Bueber.
Ladies K – V are asked to bring bars/cookies.
- April 10th - WMF Bible Study and business meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- April 13th – Palm Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
- April 16th – FLY Bible study and meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- April 18th – Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- April 20th – Resurrection Sunday
~ FLY Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow.
~ Worship service with Holy Communion, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
- April 27th - Sunday Worship, 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
~ Heritage Sunday

Usher's List: April 6 – Ervin Fink & Jack Hartmann
Communion Lay Assistant – Andrea Wright
13 – Jeff Grosz & Jeremy Fink
20 – Jeris Cleveland & John Engelland
27 – Justin Wright & Keith Sprecher

Cleaning List: Mar. 31 – Apr. 6 Nicole Grosz & Renee Engelland
Apr. 7 – 13 Nicole Whitney & Samantha Lau
14 – 20 Renee Olson & Sandy Lau
21 - 27 Sara Wright & Shelby Punt
Apr. 28 – May 4 Tami Fink & Tammy Bamberg



Were You There?

During the month of April our hymn is “**Were You There?**” #83 and our memory verse **Matthew 28:19-20** “¹⁹*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

The following came from <https://dianaleaghmatthews.com/were-you-there/>

When you think of Spirituals, often upbeat songs such as Swing Low Sweet Chariot and Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho comes to mind.

However, some spirituals, such as Were You There {When they Crucified My Lord} are much slower and thought provoking.

Were You There enhances the pain those bound to slavery suffered. The tune and words are almost haunting as we are asked if you are there when my Lord was crucified.

One resource stated it accurately, “this put each Christian on the witness stand.”

The imagery grows and with each verse we are placed at the scene of the Crucifixion, where we can see the scene, here the pain of the nails, smell the blood as his side is pierced, feel the tremble of the earth, and witness the darkness cover the sun.

The slaves could relate to the pain and brutality that the Christ suffered while on the cross.

By the late 1800s, the spiritual had moved from the cotton fields into congregations of all nationalities.

This song serves as a reminder that Easter is for everyone regardless of the color of our skin, our nationality, our economic status, our background, age or social standing.

In Stories Behind the Traditions of Easter, the tone and theme is perfectly summed up. “Maybe the fact that spirituals were the joint cries and shouts of Christians looking for the freedom that only God could bring gives the message of this song much more impact. None of us were there in body when Christ died, but all of us need to go there in spirit. To understand the gift of salvation, each sinner must realize that he or she is a slave to the world: only then does seeing Christ on the cross make the impact all the more real.”

The spiritual was first published in the 1899 Old Plantation Hymnal, which was composed by William Eleazar Barton. In 1940, it was included in the Episcopal Hymnal. Were You There was the first spiritual to be included in any major American hymnal.

Many artists have covered the songs including Johnny Cash, Phil Keaggy, Marion Williams, Harry Belafonte, and Neil Tennant.

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.” **1 Peter 2:24**

“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds, we are healed.” **Isaiah 53:5**

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20**

God bless us this month as we meditate upon his work on the cross.