



THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018 AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



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WORSHIP - TWO OPPORTUNITIES EVERY SUNDAY:
Sunday morning at 8:30 am - Contemporary Service with Communion
Sunday morning at 11 am - Festival Service with Communion

EASTER WORSHIP

On **Easter Sunday, April 1**, we will worship at our usual times of **8:30 am** and **11 am** with our Easter Continental Breakfast being held in the Narthex between the services. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring food.

SPRING BINGO AT ST. MARK

Saturday, April 21 is Spring Bingo Night at St. Mark. Tickets are \$15 (\$3 for non-players) and the ticket packet includes ten game sheets and a raffle ticket. Pizza, chicken nuggets, hot dogs and drinks will be available for sale beginning at **5:30 pm** (please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dessert) and the games will begin around **6:30 pm**. There will be a special raffle, which costs \$5 a ticket, for a prize of \$500 IN CASH. The winner's prize for each regular game of bingo will be \$20; in all cases, prizes will be split between tied winners. There will be raffles and a 50-50. Please see the special insert which will accompany each Worship Guide, during April, for all of the details.

FROM PASTOR TIM

"I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on."

As I write this, it is five days until St. Patrick's day, and in celebration of the Irish facet of my heritage, I've been listening to a lot of Irish and Irish-inspired music, including the song from which come the lyrics above, "Lord of the Dance." Written by English (gasp!) composer Sydney Carter, the version of the song I know best is performed by the Irish folk group The Dubliners. The song tells the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, using the metaphor of an eternal dance that we as believers are drawn into with Jesus, which to me is a beautiful image.

I share this verse, which is the 4th of 5, because it sums up perfectly why I think there is an appropriate and even comedic quality to Easter falling on April Fools Day. Specifically, the lines "they buried my body and they thought I'd gone," speak to what I want to say. When Jesus dies on the cross, to all the world it would seem the power of evil, the power of sin, death, and the devil, had won some sort of victory and that these powers had managed to kill what might have been humanity's chance at redemption, at freedom from captivity to these powers. It would appear that death could conquer even God's chosen one.

"But I am the dance and I still go on." As these next lines attest, the opposite turns out to be true. In rising from the dead, Jesus shows that nothing can conquer the love of God, and in so doing frees all the world from sin and death. In effect, God plays the ultimate April Fools prank on these powers, sending Jesus to take on human nature and live and die as one of us. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, "Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see."

May we join the eternal dance, and know the freedom of the crucified and risen Christ. Amen.

Pastor Tim