

**From your pastor...**

**Since Easter falls on April 1 this year, I thought it might work to write a poem emphasizing that the Easter message of Christ risen is no April fools joke.**

**We are not fools for believing  
That Jesus came out of His grave.  
God is not tricking or deceiving  
When He declares Christ's power to save.  
He's risen, He's risen just as He said.  
Our Savior is risen from the dead!**

**Easter's news is no silly joke.  
God is not fibbing or lying.  
He tells us from the word He spoke:  
"My Son is alive, after dying."  
He's risen, He's risen just as He said.  
Our Savior is risen from the dead!**

**We are not fools for believing.  
For sure we will arise as well!  
Forgiven and life receiving,  
We will escape from death and hell.  
He's risen, He's risen just as He said.  
Our Savior is risen from the dead!**

**Easter blessings to you and yours through your risen Savior!**

*~Pastor Bare*

## **President's Status Report concerning January 28<sup>th</sup> Open Forum**

I would like to take a few minutes and provide an update as to what has taken place since the Open Forum on January 28, 2018.

- Offerings are up since the meeting. Council will continue to monitor this through the Passion Season to see if this will be sustained or not. Updates will be provided in the weekly bulletins.
- Many excellent ideas were brought forward during the meeting and many more have been since.
- Summer sewing lessons are being considered at the school this summer by some of our ladies in the congregation.
- Possibly a summer music academy by a MLC student from the area?
- We will be looking into the requirements for day care services. The facility requirements for such services maybe too prohibitive for Salem to pursue.
- We are continuing to look at insurance options for next year that may cut our costs without a significant impact to the benefits to our called and non-called workers.

As we have previously said, if you have any ideas/suggestions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone of us and we will try to address it as best we can.

Thank you,

Rick Freeman

**Church Council News:  
Our financial report – as of January 2018**

	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Budget Requirements</b>	<b>\$48,793.42</b>	<b>\$48,793.42</b>
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$30,238.08</b>	<b>\$30,238.08</b>
<b>Tuition/FEF/ Reg</b>	<b>\$ 1,513.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,513.77</b>
<b>Other</b>		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$31,754.75</b>	<b>\$31,754.75</b>
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$46,700.88</b>	<b>\$46,700.88</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$14,946.13</b>	<b>-\$14,946.13</b>

**Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$50,000**

**Holy Week**

*Maundy Thursday Communion Services*

**March 29<sup>th</sup> at noon & 7pm**

*Good Friday Communion Services*

**March 30<sup>th</sup> at noon & 7pm**

*Easter Festival Services*

**April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 & 10:30am**

## **New WELS catechism and personal Bible study 2018/02/20/in Together**

You may not be aware that our synod, as a part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, has recently produced a revision of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The revision is not a revision of the chief parts of the catechism or Luther's familiar answers to the question, "What does this mean?" What have been revised are the detailed questions and answers that expand on what Luther wrote.

Luther often encouraged faithful Christians to study and review the catechism as a part of their daily devotional lives. With that in mind, the newly revised WELS catechism is formatted in such a way to encourage our members to use the catechism on a daily basis, long after they have been confirmed. As in the previous version of the catechism, Scripture passages are included to provide the clear biblical basis for the doctrines we believe, and a continuing review of those teachings is always helpful in strengthening faith and increasing our knowledge of what the Bible teaches.

But in addition to those passages, the new catechism has been designed to flow for a more natural read. Each section begins with an introduction and transitional thoughts and concludes with a "Connections" section that provides application and could also serve as the basis for personal or family devotions. The new catechism provides additional guidance through Bible history narratives. It also features illustrations, thought questions, and applications of biblical truths in a way that makes it a practical and easy-to-use tool for continuing study of God's Word.

The catechism is not just for kids. Consider getting a copy for your own devotional use. Copies are available for purchase from Northwestern Publishing House at [nph.net/catechism](http://nph.net/catechism).