



## Stephen Hawking and Resurrection

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ is risen!

As I write this column, Stephen Hawking has recently died. What an incredible life! What an incredible person! Stephen was born on January 8, 1942 in Oxford, England. In 1963, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease and given two years to live. Fortunately, the disease progressed slowly. Stephen's condition deteriorated over the years until he was wheelchair-bound and only able to communicate with a device that he controlled through the movements of a single cheek muscle! In spite of his physical limitations, Stephen was a brilliant theoretical physicist and cosmologist whose work rivaled that of Einstein himself. His life stands as a testament to the indomitable power of the human spirit that can overcome immense obstacles. There is something inherent in life that refuses to give up and which contains a desire to push forward beyond the known frontiers in order to blaze a new trail and to leave a lasting legacy for the betterment of all.

I am thinking of Stephen Hawking as we hear again the Easter proclamation of new life! Among all of the gospel accounts of the resurrection, I like Mark's account the best! Mark is the first canonical gospel to be written in the 70's CE. After that comes Matthew (80's CE), Luke (90's CE), and John (95-100 CE). In the sixteenth chapter of Mark, the women come to the tomb, but they never encounter the risen Christ. There is simply an empty tomb and a proclamation of new life. The gospel ends with fear and silence on the part of the women (there is a longer ending to Mark that biblical scholars believe is a later addition). In my estimation, the less details, the better it is. Let the mystery stand without too many distractions! As the other gospels are written, the stories of the resurrection become more and more physical with the Risen One even eating a piece of cooked fish (Luke 24: 41-43)!

When we reflect on the concept of resurrection, we may imagine bodies walking out of tombs and life after death (both of which none of us have ever experienced), but what if we expand our notion of resurrection to include the life that we are experiencing now. What if the Easter proclamation is not just about life after death, but about how much more deeply and authentically our lives could be lived in the present moment. We can live at the surface of life or we can live in the profound depths of life. The Easter proclamation is the challenge to go deeper into life and to live it to the fullest. When we do, we realize that there is an enduring and an eternal quality of life that is so strong and so powerful that even physical death cannot bring it to an end.

Stephen Hawking once said, "Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious." Can we have the courage to look into the empty tomb and as we peer into the darkness to believe that the emptiness is the womb where limitless possibilities are waiting to be born? The realization of possibilities is what resurrection is all about. Somehow and in some way, we are made to endure! Perhaps this is an understanding of resurrection that even Stephen Hawking would agree with!

Blessed Easter of new possibilities!

P a s t o r M e d w i d

## Here are the highlights from the March Council meeting:

The Council voted to hold a concert and art show by Susan Hale on Friday, June 1st. First Lutheran Church will provide assistance with the event, including: set up, programs, ushering, security and a reception.

### January Financials:

#### Weekly Contributions:

Actual	Budget	Difference
\$9,721.37	\$9,583.33	\$138.04

#### Holy Day/ Special Contributions:

\$0.00	416.67	\$-416.67
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Total Assets: \$654,021.46

### Upcoming events:

- ☐ April 23rd - Shelter Closing Dinner
- ☐ April 30th - next Community Dinner. Ham with scalloped potatoes
- ☐ May 6th - Crop Walk. See Doug or Kevin to volunteer to walk.
- ☐ June 10th - Annual Picnic and Meeting

## March/ April Cluster Outreach Collection

We are collecting items for the St. Francis and St. John/ St. Ann food pantries.

Items that people cannot purchase with food stamps but need:

- ☐ Bar & Liquid Soap
- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Toilet Paper
- ☐ Diapers
- ☐ Baby Wipes
- ☐ Disinfecting Wipes

There is a bin in the church office designated for this collection. Please bring your items in on Sunday mornings and thank you again for your generous donations.

## Sunday Morning Discussion Group

This group will resume their gatherings on Sunday, April 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the Library. All are welcome!

## CROP Walk

This annual event is sponsored by Church World Service to aid local and global efforts to end hunger.

This year's walk will take place on May 6th, beginning at First Lutheran Church. If you would like to participate in this year's walk or donate money to support the walkers, please contact Doug Siegenthaler or Kevin Taft. There is a sign-up sheet to walk on the bulletin board.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## FLC Community Dinner

The next community dinner will be held on Monday, April 30th, at 6:00 PM. We will serve a ham dinner. Please join our neighbors for food, fellowship and fun!! We also need people to help set-up, prepare the meal, clean up, hand out produce to take home and break down the tables and chairs. Please contact Janice Logan or Liz Peters if you are interested in helping.

## Homeless Action Center (HAC) Sandwiches

Thank you to everyone who made sandwiches for the HAC van during January, February and March. These sandwiches, and other food provided by the van, are all that some homeless people in Albany eat during the course of a day.

Thanks go to Liz Peters, Nancy Marsh-Haggerty, Karen and Paul Lapierre, and JoAnne Evans for making the sandwiches and Liz Peters for delivering them to the Homeless Action Center.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to make sandwiches for the months of May – August. Please sign-up for dates that are convenient for you. Thank you, as always for your generosity.

# The plants that were in the chancel area on Easter were given...

In memory of his parents Georgetta and Arthur Adams  
by Peter and Beverly Adams

In memory of Alice and Warren Burt by Katie and  
Daniel Reifler

In memory of Steven B. Carlson by Judy Carlson and  
Sara Carlson

In honor of her children and grandchildren by Bev  
Hazzard

In memory of their beloved grandparents John and  
Sophie Di Bartelomeo and Robert and Audrey Gordon  
by the Di Bartelomeo family

In loving memory of her parents Marilyn and Bernhard  
Erling by Anne, Dominic, Amelia and Ingrid

In loving memory of Timothy Eskeli by Julie Lind

In honor of First Lutheran Church by Clifford and June  
Danielson

In memory of George and Jeanette Fox by Joan and  
Lisa Rittberger

In memory of Edward Franz, Sr. and Blaine Vance  
Palmer by the Franz family

For family and friends by Barbara McGuinness

In loving memory of Lucille Gavryck "always in our  
hearts" by Karen and Andrew Amerling

For this Glorious Day by Edwin and Carol Engelhardt

To the Glory of God – Alleluia! by the Brousseau family

To the Glory of God by Clifford and June Danielson

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of family  
and friends by John H. Harp, III

Praise and Thanksgiving to our loving God by Barbara  
McGuinness

In loving memory of their parents Kenneth D. and  
Marion W. Greenwood by Joan and Judith Greenwood

In memory of Martin G. Haberman, David M.  
Haberman, Carol E. Haberman and Rita Hackney by  
the Hackney family

Happy Easter by Peter, Maggie and Heidi Marinucci

In loving memory of Adolph J. and Anna Reinhart  
Harden by Robert C. and Carolyn S. Harden and family

In loving memory of her father Richard M. King, her  
step-father Robert J. Powell and her husband Jeffrey  
E. Lind by Julie Lind

In loving memory of her brother James F. Leonard by  
Doris Marsh

In loving memory of her parents Alfred and Shirley  
Le Vie by Matthew and Catherine Hammann

In memory of Great Gramma (Mildred Logan) love  
Abby, Ryan and Emma

In loving memory of our Mother and Father, Gramma  
and Grandpa, Great Gramma and Great Grampa,  
Mildred and Francis Logan by the O'Connor, Logan  
and Franz families

In memory of loved ones by Bev, Karen and Joyce

In memory of loved ones by Judy Carlson and Sara  
Carlson

In memory of departed loved ones by Michael and  
Adrienne Casler

In memory of loved ones by Clifford and June  
Danielson

In memory of loved ones by Edwin and Carol  
Engelhardt

In memory of loved ones by Jo Anne Evans

In memory of loved ones by Robert and Janice Frost

In memory of departed Hannah family loved ones by Paul Hyde and Tim Hannah

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In memory of loved ones by Lyle and Eve Norton

In loving memory of their son Matthew and their parents Virginia and William Kennedy and Helen and Henry Wentland by Mark and Clara Wentland

In loving memory of Jack McGuinness, Bill Sippel and Pastor Fred Shilling by Barbara McGuinness

In loving memory of James and Ellen McKnight, finally reunited by Colin McKnight

In loving memory of Bee McQuirk and May Douglas by Paul Hyde and Tim Hannah

In loving memory of her parents Marcelle and Art Olsen by Kim, Sal and Francesco Paonessa

In loving memory of his parents Francesco and Marcia Paonessa by Sal, Kim and Francesco Paonessa

In loving memory of Dr. Eric D. Petersen by Joan and Judith Greenwood

In loving memory of her parents William and Helen Pfeil by Barbara McGuinness

In honor of her mother Christina M. Powell and her sister Laura M. King by Julie Lind

In memory of Carl and Frieda Rittberger by Joan and Lisa Rittberger

In memory of William Rittberger by Joan and Lisa Rittberger

In loving memory of Virginia G. and Robert H. Schoneman by Joan and Judith Greenwood

In loving memory of Louis C. and Gertrude Hahn Smith, Carolyn G. Smith, and our Hahn, Lehmann and Krumbholz relatives by William C. Stowell and Carolyn S. Harden and family

In memory of her parents Thomas and Marjorie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Lowerree and Mrs. Matilda Hemstead by Liz and Chuck Peters.

In loving memory of Cecil B. and Helen S. Stowell by William C. Stowell and Carolyn S. Harden and family

In memory of Joan Taft and Sharon and Ernest Germain by Kevin Taft

In loving memory of Sue and Alan Townsend by Paul Hyde and Tim Hannah

In loving memory of Tom Ucci, Sr. and family by Paul Hyde and Tim Hannah

In loving memory of Frank Wells and MaryLee McCabe by Paul Hyde and Tim Hannah

In loving memory of Wayne Wilson by the family

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## Homeless Shelter Closing Dinner

The overflow homeless shelter will close for the season April 30th. We will host a closing dinner on Monday, April 23rd, at 6:00 PM, to honor the staff and volunteers who have dedicated their time and assistance to make the shelter run successfully. If you can volunteer to help with this dinner, please contact Janice Logan ASAP (518) 437-1121 or [jlogan6@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jlogan6@nycap.rr.com)

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## Homeless Shelter Dinners

The Lutheran Cluster churches provide the Tuesday dinners for the homeless shelter.

Thank you to Karen Lapiere, Liz Peters, Clara DeMarco, Julie Lind, Sandy O'Connor and Kevin Taft for making dinners from January through March.

Newness is  
springing to life  
all around us!  
Thank you, God,  
that your divine  
resurrection is  
revealed here  
on earth.



## Serving in April

Please let Julie know of any schedule changes that you make between yourselves so that the Sunday bulletin will be as accurate as possible. Many thanks.

Date of Worship	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Com m un ion Assistants	Ushers	Counters	Altar Guild	Fellowship Hour	Drivers
April 1 EASTER	Michael Casler		Judy Greenwood Liz Peters Sydney Mack	Cliff Danielson Karen Moore JoAnne Evans Joyce Aiello	Elizabeth Katagiri Sara Carlson	Colin McKnight	Festival of Easter Breads	Cliff Danielson
April 8	Colin McKnight	Beverly Hazzard	Barbara McGuinness Kim Ryan Abby Brousseau	Roger Minch John Lasher	Janice Logan Karen & Paul Lapierre	Clara DeMarco	Clara DeMarco	Paul Hyde
April 15	Judy Carlson		Colin McKnight Karen Lapierre Amelia Colafati	Ed & Carol Engelhardt	Joe Markowski Colin McKnight	Elizabeth Katagiri	Cara Brousseau	Paul Hyde
April 22	Judy Greenwood	Cara Brousseau	Judy Carlson Paul Lapierre Megan Brousseau	Cliff Danielson JoAnne Evans	Elizabeth Katagiri Shawn Brousseau	Judy Carlson	Sue Harper	Cliff Danielson
April 29	Judy Carlson	Josef Markowski	Judy Greenwood Liz Peters Ingrid Colafati	Karen Moore Joyce Aiello	Janice Logan Jo Anne Evans	Sandy O'Connor	Liz Peters	Cliff Danielson

## The Memorial Flowers in April are given to the Glory of Godland...

- April 1                    EASTER PLANTS
- April 8                    In loving memory of Sheila Campbell by Jeannie Polonski; and in loving memory of her parents Thomas and Marjorie Smith, Elton and Margaret Lowerree and Matilda Hemstead by Chuck and Liz Peters
- April 15                    In loving memory of J. Kenneth and Betty Logan by daughters Kathy LaDuca and Janice Logan and in loving memory of Ragnar and Shirley Carlson by Judy Carlson and family
- April 22                    In loving memory of Ruth Robbiano and Shirley Palmer, who were twin sisters, by their sister Doris Marsh; and in loving memory of Peggy Mosmen by Joan and Lisa Rittberger and Larry and Carolyn Johansen
- April 29                    In loving memory of his mother, Elsie Harp by John Harp, III; and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moore on their wedding anniversary by their daughters

Any new requests, questions or changes call Liz Peters, 869-0387 or email [mommy5853@aol.com](mailto:mommy5853@aol.com)

Altar vase - \$25.00 Sanctuary vase - \$27.50

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. Special Easter Breads Coffee & Fellowship Hour in Wittenberg Hall	<b>2</b> 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>4</b> 5:00 p.m. Pine Hills Neighborhood Association Dinner	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Second Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>11</b> 5:30 p.m. Women Against War Dinner and program	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Third Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour 3:00 p.m. Festival Choir Scholarship Auditions	<b>16</b> 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>18</b> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>19</b> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour	<b>23</b> 6:00 p.m. Shelter Volunteer Recognition Dinner 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Albany Senior Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>25</b> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>26</b> 6:00 p.m. Judo Instruction	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 a.m. Albany Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. Annual Festival Celebration Choir Members Dinner
<b>29</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship Hour	<b>30</b> 6:00 p.m. FREE Community Dinner Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Dessert 7:00 p.m. Festival Celebration Choir Rehearsal	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>April 2018</h1>  </div>				

First Lutheran Church  
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