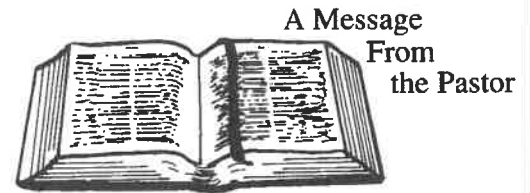




*'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'*



## TITANIC

It was 124 years ago that a very real tragedy occurred in the cold North Atlantic on the night of April 14-15, 1912... when the "unthinkable" happened. And it is a story that still captures the hearts and minds of people today.

The R.M.S. Titanic, at that time the largest, grandest, most magnificent ship ever built; a ship, which those at the time said: "even God couldn't sink", set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City. On board the great luxury liner were 2,240 passengers and crew, including some of the most prominent and wealthy people in the world.

Most of us are familiar with what happened. On that "Night to Remember", the Titanic collided with an iceberg, opening the hull to a torrent of ocean water and the great ship was doomed. Doomed, too, were most of the passengers, for the ship carried life boats for less than half of those on board.

We can only imagine what those 1,500 plus souls, still on Titanic's deck, were thinking after the last life boat had been launched. Likely, many of faith fell to their knees in prayer knowing they were only moments away from meeting their Maker. Others undoubtedly, cursed God out of anger and bitterness. All experienced heartache, fear, sorrow and regret as they realized, perhaps too late, what is really important in life.

Many on board that sinking ship had only yesterday, felt so secure. Life had seemed so good. Wealth, possessions and treasures; luxury and pleasure on an "unsinkable" ship...what more could you ask for in life? What more could one need? Yet on that fateful night, many found out that there is "one thing needful" that is more precious than all the world's riches, faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Easter in 1912 fell on April 7, one short week before Titanic's faithful night. We might wonder...how many of those who would be passengers were in attendance in worship that Easter Sunday? How many rejoiced in song to the wondrous message of Jesus, who was dead, but is alive! How many had Jesus alive in their life?

How many on that Easter Sunday sleep late into the morning, dreaming of all the enjoyment they would soon experience? How many were preoccupied with sorting and selecting what to pack; deciding what jewelry they would wear; calculating how much money they should take on this premiere and prestigious voyage on the flagship of the White Star cruise line?

How many of these would perish a week later? And how many of these would be in the presence of their Heavenly Savior a week later? Life can be so grand...and it can end so quickly.

Life can be so grand for us too. At times we can get caught-up in the wealth and riches, possessions and pleasures of the world. Things can seem to be going so well, that we too might start feeling secure in what we have; feeling' that we've got all that's important in life. Our life is sailing along on a calm sea, and we seem "unsinkable."

But, then the "unthinkable" often happens...a tragedy occurs in our life. And the "unthinkable" eventually happens for all of us. For as much as we don't want to think about it, all of us will one day be only moments away from meeting our Maker. Will we find ourselves at that moment, regretting that we didn't possess that which is most important?

The message of Easter is that in Jesus Christ we find the "one thing needful", the most important treasure of all...faith in a Savior, who died and rose for us so that we might have life and life eternal. There is no greater treasure, no more secure feeling than knowing that we can face all of life's tragedies, even death itself, confident in our faith in the "unsinkable" grace and love of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

*"...Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. ... 'Martha', the Lord answered, 'you are concerned about many things, but there is only one thing needful; Mary has chosen what is better...' (Luke 10:39-42)*

Together with you this Easter-time, rejoicing in the one thing needful, our Risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ,



Pastor Jeff G. Gavin



## IF YOU HAVE BEEN TO CHURCH RECENTLY...

you can't help but notice something new. On the left side of the altar area, above the door to the Sacristy is mounted an 85" TV. Now, if the sermon gets boring, you can find something better to watch. No, that's not what it will be used for. Neither are we going to put the order of service up there, or the song lyrics; even though many churches have such TV's and do use them for these purposes.

For many years such a video accessory has been desired and spoken about. Now, with a needed upgrade to our sound system, with new technology and with memorial monies dedicated for this item, St. John has joined most of our sister LCMS churches. Unlike those churches, due to our older building architecture we are able to have a TV screen only on one side; but its size should enable even those in the very back pews to be able to see the images that will appear on screen.

This large screen monitor will be used to welcome us, perhaps offer a hint regarding the morning's service and emphasize some upcoming event. But it will primarily be used to enhance the sermon. The old saying is true: "A picture is worth a thousand words." Often in the sermons I will mention some Biblical location, or some special building or seek to describe Biblical customs or artifacts. This monitor will enable me to instead show you a picture or a series of pictures, which will aid you to better understand what I am trying to tell you by seeing for yourself a picture of that which I am seeking to describe for you with only words. I believe that you will quickly recognize the value of seeing, verses only hearing about something. This large screen monitor will be also be used when I conduct the Student History Tours for some 300 plus students, teachers and parents each year.

You may recall that over the years we have presented video messages for Advent and Lenten evening services. It was never possible to do so on any Sunday, because of a cart in the middle of the center aisle that contained the projector and the rickety screen that sat in front of the altar, blocking not only it, but also the cross, something I was against.

Joe Schubkegel and I are learning and trying new technologies to enable the usage of the large screen monitor, as well as the new audio equipment we needed to replace that which was no longer working. The final goal is to enable me alone to control a device which will operate both our digital music and the video monitor, freeing our dedicated volunteers to rejoin the rest of the congregation and worship normally. Just in 2023 we used digital music for our worship services, seven out of the twelve months.

We will continue to use digital music for our worship services, as are a number of our sister LCMS congregations, due to the inability to obtain organists, which are very much a dying talent. Often what you are hearing digitally are some of the best Synod organists on the best Synod organs, each with a little different style; and...some may play louder than others. In preparing the music I do take the extra step of "normalization" of all the audio tracks to try and keep them within a common volume as best as possible. (I do remember various people, at various times complaining to me that Jim played too loud. Proves You can't please everyone.) I hope you will come to appreciate this new technology, which will continue to preserve our traditions and enhance our Biblical messages.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff

# HE IS RISEN



## HOW TO HAVE A LIVING CHURCH

1. Always attend worship.
2. Always come well ahead of starting time and spend time in prayer.
3. Come with a glow, a radiant countenance, a happy mood.
4. Come expectantly, expecting to offer yourself to God in worship.
5. Accept an office when called to serve faithfully, accepting the decisions of the officers, even though they may not always be your personal judgments.
6. When you visit other churches, observe helpful suggestions for your own church. So treasure your own church that to be absent from its service of worship is a minus factor in any week.



7. Do the work of a good lay-person so that the pastor need not do all the work but is free to do all the work of a faithful pastor.
8. Sit up as near the front as may be possible and sing out praises to the Lord on all the hymns.
9. Always tithe, giving generously, and -- if you are to be absent -- remember that the church's expenses continue.
10. Always encourage your pastor. He will have enough discouragements from other sources.
11. Speak up for the fine things about your church. The weak points are conspicuous enough.
12. Win all the people you can to Christ, and to the church, invite and bring them to worship.

13. Last but not least --

**PRAY DAILY FOR YOUR CHURCH AND ITS GROWTH AND FOR THE MINISTRY OF YOUR PASTOR.**

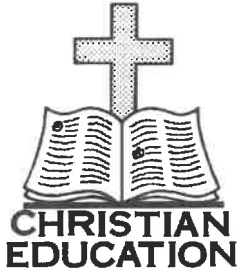


WORSHIP  
THIS WEEK

See you in  
Church <sup>Every</sup> Sunday



SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . ***open question forum.***

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

**PASTOR** . . . has resumed taking Fridays as his "Day Off". Even though he may sometimes be in his office, he is scheduling no work; so Please do not Visit him, or Phone him on Fridays. If there is a true Emergency, call him on his Cell: (630) 776-2382. Thank you.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS . . .**

**DUE TO NEW FLOWER PRICES...ALTAR FLOWERS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$20.**

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (**or confirm your "standing order"**) please contact please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at (847) 593-7670 **or** email Pastor at jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



**Please Note:** When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



The Altar Guild is currently looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to a rotating team committed to serve 2 months a year to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed.

### **THANK YOU**

The health issues of Lynn have caused me to divide my time between a pastor and a care-giver. - I greatly appreciate the understanding of the St. John Family, and Lynn appreciates the well-wishes and prayers. - She is improving, but is still visiting an array of doctors for follow-up and additional tests scheduled into May.

*Pastor Jeff*



### **HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE:**

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL OR PASTOR WILL NOT KNOW YOU ARE THERE!**

**BECAUSE OF PRIVACY ISSUES THE HOSPITAL IS NOT ALLOWED TO NOTIFY US THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO THEIR HOSPITAL.**



Daniel Schubkegel	April 2	Jacqueline Koeppen	April 19
Kyle Pass	April 3	Lori Smith	April 19
Cassidy Zeuli	April 3	Rebecca Ruwe	April 20
Jaden Routhowski	April 6	Elizabeth Welsch	April 20
Dominick Poremba	April 7	Pastor Jeff Gavin	April 21
Valerie Rainbolt	April 8	Marnie Franz	April 21
Marsha Hernandez	April 10	Kellie Fiorito	April 25
Kaidan Fiorito	April 11	Al Schmidt	April 26
Lisa Gordon	April 16	Alice Mueller	April 30
Erika Schmidt	April 17	Jacob Fiorito	April 30
Geraldine Guanci	April 18		

*If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!*

*May God Bless You on Your Birthday*