



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

April 4, 2021

## A Word from Our Pastor 04/04/21

This Easter weekend we have the privilege, as believers, to celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you prepare your heart I would like us to know that the resurrection is spoken about in all four of the gospels (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; and John 20:1-21:1). Take some time this weekend and read through each passage and see the different perspectives of the gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As you continue reading through the New Testament, in the Book of Acts, you will see the next 30 years of the apostle's proclamation of the resurrection of Christ and their continued trust in Him as the one who is alive and reigning in heaven. As you reflect on the Epistles you will see that they depend on the fact that Christ rose from the dead, He's the living Savior, who is the exalted head of the church, and will one day return in power and glory to reign a King over all the earth. The Book of Revelation and the rest of the New Testament bears witness that the grave could not hold Him (Grudem, Systematic Theology..., 608).

One of our key resurrection passages is John 20:19-20 ESV <sup>19</sup>*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."* <sup>20</sup>*When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."*

Following the crucifixion, the disciples placed the body of Jesus in the barrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. It was Sunday evening, the disciples once again gathered together in that upper room thinking that it was all over. Remember by then, Mary and the other women, had already told the disciples what had happened earlier that morning. Know this...these disciples were not gathered together to celebrate; they had gathered together because they were gripped by fear and uncertainty. For these Christ followers, their future was very uncertain.

Suddenly, while meeting together, Jesus appears to them. And everything they had lost was now restored, because the One who was called *"the friend of tax collectors and sinners,"* (Matthew 11:19) was alive and standing right before them. I got to thinking about the change of heart that took place in that moment. The disciples went from fearing for their lives to a state of euphoria in a matter of seconds. The resurrection of Jesus Christ fulfilled many Old and New Testament prophecies and met the disciples at the point of their need...their deepest need of a Savior. As I close my reflections on the resurrection, the hymn by Alfred H. Ackley comes to mind: "I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today. I know that He is living, whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer; and just the time I need Him He's always near. He lives, He lives! Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart! (© 1933 by Homer A. Rodeheaver)



## A Nugget from Noah (for Parents)

4/4/21

EASTER EDITION!!!

Don't judge me for this, but around the Easter season, there is something that I get a little excited about: candy. Can you blame me? Cadbury Crème or Caramel Eggs! Cadbury Mini Eggs (Erica's favorites)! Lindt Chocolate Bunnies! Whopper's Robin Eggs! And—we can't forget the reigning seasonal champion—PEEPS! Every year, when I see the seasonal candy come out, I typically can't help but buy something from the vast selection; however, there is a candy that has been M.I.A. this year. Some of my favorites are Dove's Coconut Crème Eggs, and I just can't seem to find them! They have some coconut flavored garbage, but not MY Coconut Crème Eggs! I have looked at every store I've been at, and nothing. My only conclusions that I can draw is that they are either so amazing that everybody is buying them before me, that they have been discontinued, or that Dove Chocolate has a vendetta against me.

Did I really just spend a paragraph ranting about candy? Yes. But ironically, here we are at Easter, and many of us have this moment where our "spiritual ears" perk up a bit, and we tend to treat this Sunday a little different from all of the others. Why? Why is it that when Easter comes around, so many of us suddenly seem to care about our Risen Savior? Why does it take Christmas to remind us of His Birth, Good Friday to remind us of His sacrifice, and Easter to remind us of His resurrection? Whether by guilt, obligation, or a spark of remembrance, we come flocking back to the Easter story around this time like I check in on the candy aisle. Am I the only one perturbed by this? Don't get me wrong, Easter should be a special time of remembrance; and yet, shouldn't every day be just that? How would Erica feel if I hardly acknowledged my marriage to and love for her until our anniversary?

Jesus, our Savior, the One to Whom we celebrate and worship on this Easter Sunday, once said that His Kingdom is like a treasure in a field and a pearl of great value (**Matthew 13:44-46**), and I have to ask: Would we sell *everything* for that treasure? The man in both parables didn't sell a portion, or even a majority, but rather gave up "all that he had." The One Who gave Himself up for us calls us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him—what does it profit us to gain this whole world, yet forfeit our soul (**Matthew 16:24-28**)? Can we echo Paul and say that we count everything as loss for the surpassing value of knowing Christ, suffering with Him, and sharing in His resurrection (**Philippians 3:7-11**)?

We love the fact that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead, but do we realize that *He is the gift*? What if our entire lives were marked by the resurrection of Jesus, the power of Jesus, and the goal of Jesus? What if we didn't wait until Easter, but raised our families to be Christ-centered 24/7 in all things for all eternity? Decide today that you will live a life passionately seeking for your real Treasure; otherwise, I guess I'll see you next Easter.



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

April 4, 2021

## Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- Tim Hewitt, for complete healing from COVID-19 and for protection over Sandy
- Carolyn Sackett, awaiting results from scan this weekend
- Collins family, passing of Paul
- Karen Johnson and family, following the passing of her father
- Larry Van Buren and family, following the passing of his sister
- Debby Russ, diagnosed with breast cancer, waiting for treatment plan
- Tonya Paschall, recovering from a blood clot that caused a stroke, at home
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, surgery was successful but continue prayer for upcoming treatments
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Lee Hayward, dealing with severe health issues
- Pete Belford, dealing with severe back issues
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Jamie Scott, tumor on her pituitary gland. Another MRI in Fall to determine if surgery is needed.
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

**Weekly Goal: \$8,562**

**Giving This Week: \$3,469**

## Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to **"Milan Baptist Church"** and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at [www.milanbaptist.org](http://www.milanbaptist.org). Contact the church if you have any questions.

## HEBREWS 4:12



*"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

**"ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY."**

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

## Through the Bible in a Year

### Daily Bible Reading Assignment

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
April 4	Ruth 1-4	Luke 8:1-25
April 5	1 Samuel 1-3	Luke 8:26-56
April 6	1 Samuel 4-6	Luke 9:1-17
April 7	1 Samuel 7-9	Luke 9:18-36
April 8	1 Samuel 10-12	Luke 9:37-62
April 9	1 Samuel 13-14	Luke 10:1-24
April 10	1 Samuel 15-16	Luke 10:25-42
April 11	1 Samuel 17-18	Luke 11:1-28

Birthdays	Anniversaries
April 4 – Lynn Brooks	April 8 – Clark & Becky Barton
April 5 – Mark Beck	
April 7 – Ann Huff & Andrew Oswalt	
April 9 – Debby Russ	

## Cox Family

The Cox family sends along their sincerest appreciation and thanks to our MBC Family and the SeniorLife Community Bible Study group for their prayers, messages, and flowers received when Earl passed away.