

April 2022



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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He is risen, indeed!

Lilies signal the celebration — the holiest day in our Christian faith: the commemoration of Christ's Resurrection from the dead!

Our celebration will begin with a somber but grateful gathering at sunset (7 p.m.) on Friday evening, April 15 – thanks to His sacrifice for us, that is Good Friday.



Easter Sunday we will worship our Risen Redeemer, our Everlasting King, and our service will feature a choir assembled from our congregation, singing a special anthem, *The Beauty of the Cross*. Put on your calendar now the names of those you'll bring with you.

Eat hearty!

Bring your Easter guests with you early to church at 9 AM on April 17 to enjoy a brunch together in CrossWay's South Wing.



Our kitchen crew will be doing their best to serve our buffet and are requesting each family to help fill the table with fruit, pastries or breakfast casserole to share. Beverages will be served. Then we can all proceed together to worship our Lord and celebrate His triumph over death. Hallelujah!

Now a movie



Journalist Lee Strobel's book *The Case for Heaven* is now a movie, showing in the Grand Rapids area for a limited engagement, April 4 - 6 at 7 p.m. only.

Catch it at the Celebration Cinemas, IMAX, and AMC/Alpine.

The film offers a great opportunity to take friends and neighbors with you to open some fascinating conversations on a spiritual topic of interest to all.

Choose your next adventure

Beginning Sunday, Apr. 3, we'll be offering a new pair of Sunday School classes for adults and youth.

Pastor Bob Manuel will guide his students through a membership preparation called "Getting to Know Us," available to all who wish to better understand the principles and structure of our local church and our Evangelical Free Church denomination.

Michael Stevens will lead others in an exploration of "The Gospel in Paul's Epistles," digging into New Testament theology found in many short books of our Holy Bible.

Two great options for extending your knowledge!

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 10 AM • Gather for worship together

Sunday School • 11:30 AM

Tuesdays • 1 PM • Women's Bible Study at church

Tuesdays • 7 - 9 PM • Small group @ Hinkles' home

Fridays • 8 - 9:30 PM • Men's discipleship meeting

Sat., Apr. 2 • 9 AM • Monthly breakfasts - Ladies @ IHOP,

Men @ Bob Evans

Wed., Apr. 6 • 6 PM • Elders meeting

Fri., Apr. 8 • 7 PM • Men's discipleship movie night

Thurs., Apr. 14 & 28 • 7 PM • Small group @ Amanda Le's home

Fri., Apr. 15 • 7 PM • Good Friday communion service

Sun., Apr. 17 • 9 AM • Easter breakfast (South Wing)

Sun., Apr. 17 • 10 AM • Resurrection Day

Sun., Apr. 24 • 11:30 AM • Matyas & Kate Kondor present their Ukraine experience and plans for ministry in Hungary

Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Refrain 1:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet
that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men
before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him;
be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Refrain 2:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom
that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy,
let us live to make men free;
While God is marching on.

Refrain 3:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
While God is marching on.

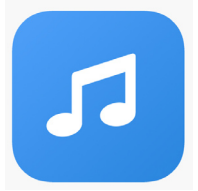
He is coming like the glory of the morning
on the wave,
He is wisdom to the mighty,
He is honor to the brave;
So the world shall be His footstool,
and His faithful He shall save;
Our God is marching on.

Refrain 4:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Our God is marching on.

Julia Howe, 1861

Welcome & thanks to CrossWay's new music coordinators



After long serving as one of CrossWay's music teams, Brad & Sandy Williams have stepped forward to coordinate our various worship teams and schedule the music for our Sunday mornings and for special occasions. This talented couple – and their daughter Clara – have long shared their love of music (and of Jesus!) with the CrossWay Community.

Already we can appreciate the vision they bring to our worship. For the first time in several years, the congregation has been invited to contribute our untrained voices to a choir anthem for the Easter service. It's not too late to let Brad & Sandy know you'd like to try singing in the choir — just join them and your fellow "choir members" rehearsing by the piano after Sunday worship.

Greet the Kondors

On Sunday, Apr. 24, CrossWay has the pleasure of welcoming Matyas and Kate Kondor to give us a firsthand view of life as it was in



Budapest, Hungary Ukraine, where they have been serving in God's mission field until Christmas. The Kondors have signed up with our denomination's missions arm ReachGlobal and plan to return to the region when they have secured funding pledges. They will be living in an apartment in Budapest, Hungary, where Matyas's parents reside. Meanwhile, they have a team bringing refugees from the Ukraine border to their apartment for brief stays as they make decisions about their next steps.

This special adult/youth Sunday School promises to be a unique opportunity. Bring a friend or two!



Funding update

EFCA has reached the \$1 million mark in its goal of raising \$3 million for Ukraine refugee relief. Please give.



Advent begins in the dark ... or

I suppose the theme of this month's *Current* article will be somewhat predictable. I mean, it's spring after all, and, Lord willing, we will all be celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. So, my theme in this brief article: Hope and Resurrection.

Hope found, not in our willpower toward optimism or based on the change in the weather! No, our hope is in a Person and His present-life He offers to us all. Oh, to live more consistently and deeply into Who He is and all He offers in Himself! Let me direct you, in this article, toward Hope. I'm not a poet, but rather than my usual prose article, I offer you the following poem.

Read it from the perspective of being in a time of Lent (which we currently are) which explores our moving from darkness to light, from death to life, and all attendant similar themes . . .

Darkness, yes. Yet . . .
There are days when tomorrow
Seems suspect to come
Do we even want it to?
Weariness creeps into and over our ashy bodies
Our weak minds, hearts and will
We have hope to carry on
To a tomorrow that some say beckons Light?
We hope so, but seem to know
If Someone is received
It won't be of natural descent,
Nor of human decision or will
But Life Eternal
Once buried in darkness
Shines upon us
Overflowing grace and truth
Truth is waiting can harden the heart
Three days of loamy lonely waiting.
Would He remember His promise?
To rise . . .
He does! Despite us! For us!
He captures our hearts and our eyes
See. Do you? Will You? Will we dream
Again of Resurrection?
Or, maybe for the first time?
Eagle-winged dreams
Chasing our weariness away
Shaping our Hope-filled tomorrows
Soaring. Running. Walking.