

Lyons Muir Church  
1074 Olmstead Rd  
Muir, MI 48860  
P.O. Box 218  
Muir, MI 48860-0218

May 2021  
Volume 1, Issue 2



## May 2021

# These Strange 40 Days

*As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." (Mark 16: 5-7)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The revelation of God's plan in raising the crucified Jesus from the dead is shocking. More than the 40 days of Lent, in which we think about the ways we have not yet reached maturity in discipleship, the 40 days between the Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost mark a period of limbo.

**Attendance:**

*The average attendance for the month of April was 29.*

The basic question is, “If Jesus has been raised from the dead, what does that mean?” We talk a lot about salvation and “going to heaven when I die” and all that. But the significance of the resurrection was immediate. First: Jesus, who had died and been buried, wasn’t dead anymore. Second: for those who saw him, nothing could possibly be the same, and anything was possible. And in his Easter appearances, Jesus had hinted at the mission of the apostles “to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Lk 24: 47). But, still, no of them had any clear sense of what this was going to look like “on the ground.” What would bearing witness to the Resurrection sound like? Who would they tell? Who would listen? How would they find homes and food and safety?

Just like the disciples, Eastertide is a period of waiting to find out what God’s next move is. There are a bunch of divine promises that have been made, but our concrete response to those promises remains an idea with only vague practical outcomes. We say, “He is risen indeed!” But everyone still has to pay the light bill, and figure out how to navigate their health insurance. Or folks still have to get up and go to work 3<sup>rd</sup> shift, or go to school online... This limbo we feel during Eastertide has to do with the tension between the message “Jesus is alive! Everything has changed!” and the fact that nothing really has changed...

I’d like to suggest that in these strange 40 days we live into the invitation and opportunity to put our trust in God without reservation. Do we know how the Spirit and the Word of God are going to transform us as we participate in Love’s Redeeming Work? No. But God sure does... or God isn’t God. In this time of waiting for the Spirit to show us the next move...the things the church will do

beyond the public health crisis of Covid-19... the space is cleared to “wait upon the Lord” (Is. 40: 31). The text above is the perfect example of the Word of God giving human beings just enough to go on. “Go and tell.” Ok... the ladies can do that. “Meet Jesus in Galilee” Ok...so we have to go to Galilee... But that’s all they get. They’re not told what it will mean for the universe that Jesus has conquered the grave. The instructions God gives are small, easily understood, and short term. If we apply this to our own everyday lives, it means that we don’t need to worry about God’s “end game.” We don’t need to worry about improvable imponderables like the rapture or whether “all dogs go to heaven” (surely they do!). Each morning, we need to ask of the Lord just enough to go on, and then go where the Word points us. And at the end of each day, give thanks for the little signs of God’s faithfulness as we made our way. The Christian life isn’t about knowing everything. The Christian life is about walking in trust through the strange tasks which present themselves whenever human beings begin to bear witness to the God revealed in the Cross and Empty Tomb of Jesus. And this approach to Eastertide provides a good lesson for us; because when the Spirit of Truth comes over us with power and strength... things are only going to get more strange!

Peace be upon you, and the ones you love...

Jonathan



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

It's that time again!! The next Blood drive will be held on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 12:30 to 6:15 pm. At the Lyons-Muir Church, corner of M-21 and Olmstead Road, Muir.

Thanks to all that have made the blood drives possible. You are all very special.

The Last blood drive we had 36 good units of blood, with 40 people donating.

For the safety of our donor community and in accordance with CDC guidelines, all donors are required to wear a face covering or mask. Please bring a face covering or mask to your donation. If you do not have one, a mask will be provided to you. Thank you.

You must log into [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Sponsor code is LyonsMuir. There are no walk-ins at this time.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Red Cross holds about 500 **blood drives** every day. 1 **donation** can potentially save up to 3 lives. Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs **blood**. Less than 38% of the population is eligible to give **blood** or platelets.
- RapidPass can help save time during your donation. For the best donation experience, we recommend scheduling an appointment online and then completing the RapidPass. It's a simple, 4 step process. Shouldn't take more than 10-15 minutes.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood.
- Type AB positive plasma can be transfused to patients of all blood types. Since only 3% of people in the U.S. have AB positive blood, this plasma is usually in short supply.

## JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

- A hug for no reason.
  - Belly laughs.
- The moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
  - Smiles and giggles.
  - Mud pies.
- Teaching love and compassion.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
  - Never ending entertainment.
  - Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
  - Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
  - A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
  - The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

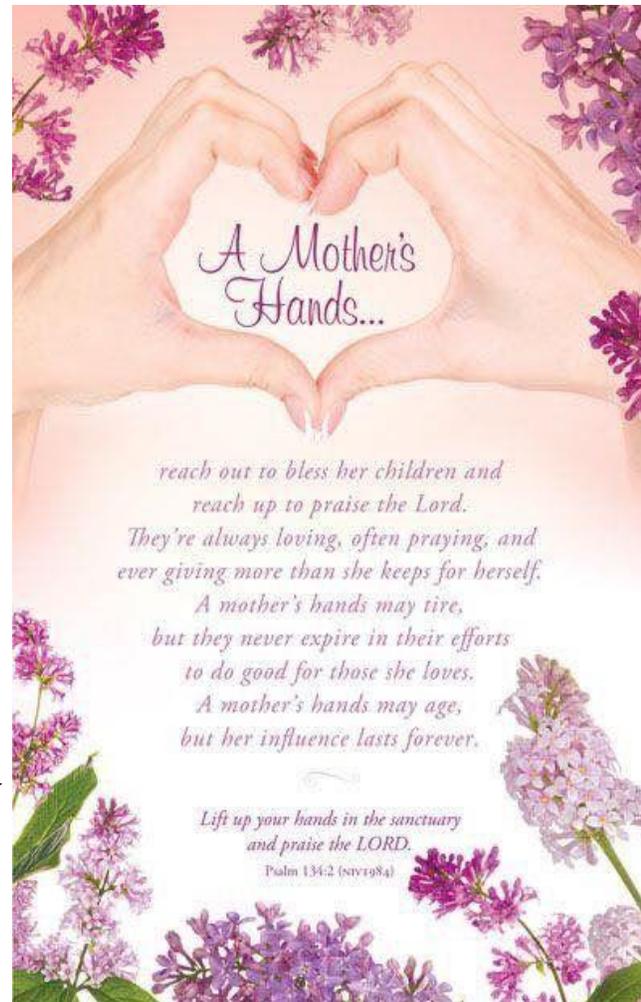
—Unknown



## OF PATIENCE AND PRUNING

In many parts of America, Mother's Day is the recommended date for planting flowers outdoors. Subjecting blooms to the elements any sooner is risky, though sunny spring days sure make waiting tough. Perhaps that's why poet May Sarton calls gardening "an instrument of grace," for it "slows us down and forces patience."

Courage is also required. Gardeners "must be brave enough to cut back the old and sit with bare branches, awaiting new growth," writes Cheryl Richardson (*Waking Up in Winter*). "And we must trust that it will come." When God prunes us, we too must trust that new growth and new life are in store ... and then patiently wait.



## COMMUNITY-WIDE AWARENESS DAY

May 8, from 9-5, the Lyons Muir Lions Club is planning a Community-Wide Awareness Day. It will be on Main Street and along the walking trail. If we have enough interest and volunteers, we will have a table displaying information on the different things our church has to offer our community. So far, we have no volunteers.

In addition to having our info sitting out, there will also be a “yard sale” going on. This is in an effort to help organizations that were not able to hold fundraisers this year because of Covid. Any money made from the items in our sale will come directly back to the church.

If you have items you would like to donate to the sale and/or would like to donate some time to covering a shift, please reach out to Sara at info@lyonsmuirchurch.com or 616-841-1395.





### A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.*

She gets \_\_\_\_\_ while it is still \_\_\_\_\_ ;




she provides \_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_ ....




Her \_\_\_\_\_ rise \_\_\_\_\_ and




\_\_\_\_\_ her blessed.



**PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)**

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Lyons-Muir Church is called to be God's healing and hope-filled congregation, and to make followers of Jesus Christ for the positive transformation of our community through lives of prayer, love, forgiveness, honesty, acceptance, and trust.*



## **A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **2021 Adopt-A-Highway**

This year the Adopt-A-Highway dates are July 17-25 and September 25-October 3.

Our Adopt-A-Highway area runs down M-21 from the Maple River, through Muir, past our church, to Westbrook Road which is three miles. Volunteers are needed to help with the trash pickup, as the volunteers able to help are dwindling. Last year, there were four people to pick up the three miles and having more volunteers will help. If you would like to volunteer for this community service, please contact Barb Davarn at 989-224-3849.

**We are in desperate need of volunteers for this event.**