

Emden Christian Reformed Church  
Pastor David Zigterman  
Sunday, April 12, 2020  
EASTER SUNDAY



**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude a time to prepare our hearts for worship  
*Christ the Lord is Risen Today* PH 388

Welcome and announcements

Call to worship

Song of Praise *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

Prayer of God's people: conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Song of preparation *Low in the Grave Christ Lay* PH 396

Prayer for illumination

\*Scripture Mark 16:1-8

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Message **For They Were Afraid**

Prayer of Application

Parting Blessing

Closing Song

*The risen Christ appears among us — despite our locked hearts, our fears, our attempts to hide — and says, "Peace."  
Even though we cannot be together to worship on this Easter Sunday, we encourage you to share with each other through phone calls or emails that same word of peace.*

**There's something better coming!**

This season of Easter is a special time for Christians to celebrate the ultimate reason for our hope: Christ is risen, and invites us to rise with Him to new life.

- Easter is an invitation to try again with God's help to break that addiction or bad habit we had given up all hope of ever breaking. There's something better coming...
- Easter is a chance to work at renewing the marriage we had given up all hope of ever saving. There's something better coming...
- Easter is an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors who, in our busyness, we neglect. There's something better coming...
- Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming...
- Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming...
- Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming...
- Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming...

**Christ  
Is Alive!**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
9:00am Sunday School  
1st & 3rd Sunday  
(Sept.—May)  
10:00am Morning Worship

**Elders:**

Duane Mulder - President

Nick Daugherty - Vice President

Doug Groen - Clerk

**Deacons:**

Samantha Link - Chairman

Curt Groen - Bldg / Benevolent Fund

Todd Groen - Treasurer

### From Back to God Ministries International

FAMILY FIRE - FAMILY FIRE is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at [familyfire.com](http://familyfire.com). Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

GROUNDWORK: I BELIEVE THE SON HAS RISEN - Christians believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Dig into 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Luke 24:36-48, and Revelation 1:12-18 with Groundwork to examine the details of Christ's resurrection and remember the crucial, life-changing meaning of this belief. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

### From Faith Formation Ministries

Easter At-Home Faith Formation Tip - Children learn best through story, so create a special time this week to share the Easter story with the kids in your life. Use a picture book like The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross: The True Story of Why Jesus Died and Rose Again (Good Book Co., 2016), or read stories from Jesus' ministry, Holy Week, and Easter from a children's Bible. Show kids that God's story is full of hope and joy! (Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))

### From The Banner

The Banner Available Online - You can access all of our content for free, including online extras at: [thebanner.org](http://thebanner.org). You can also sign up for our weekly email newsletter at [thebanner.org/Signup](http://thebanner.org/Signup). Or download our free mobile app, giving you real-time online content. Follow us on Facebook ([crcbanner](https://www.facebook.com/crcbanner)) and Twitter ([@crcbanner](https://twitter.com/crcbanner)).

#### ~ OUR MISSION ~

*Our mission is affirming the Lordship of Christ, expressing our faith through worship, fellowship, growth and service.  
We would welcome you to share with us the joy of this exciting venture of faith.*

Emden Christian Reformed Church	320-329-3932
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e-mail: <a href="mailto:emdenrcrc@centurytel.net">emdenrcrc@centurytel.net</a>	web site <a href="http://www.emdenrcrc.org">www.emdenrcrc.org</a>
Secretary: Judy C Groen (320) 905-3921	e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.k.groen56284@gmail.com">j.k.groen56284@gmail.com</a>
All Bulletin announcements due by Thursday noon.	
<b>Pastor David's office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 am—12:00 Pastor's</b>	
<b>Pastors Cell: 320-400-3023</b>	
<b>Office phone: 320-329-3932</b>	<b>You are welcome to stop in and visit without an appointment.</b>

### CHURCH FAMILY

Anthony Sytsma - Please pray, we are already in the COVID crisis, we don't need the added locusts. They are in the districts where we work with churches. The new swarm of desert locusts that entered in Amudat on Saturday have now crossed to Teso, Acholi and Langi sub regions. Mr Lodungokol said the locusts estimated to be in millions covered the whole district. This is the big swarm that we received on Saturday and they look young not yet yellow like the first batch that entered into the district three months ago," he said. The second wave of desert locusts, 20 times bigger than the first one, will soon ravage farms in Kenya and East Africa, experts have warned. In addition to corona, and the locusts, people are now concerned about the lack of rain after people have already planted.

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council met on March 31 and we decided, based on current conditions caused by COVID-19, we will not be having any services or activities at church through all of April. However, services will continue to be recorded and published on our website <https://www.emdenrcrc.org/> sermons. These recording are also available on most major podcast distributors (i.e. Spotify, Overcast). Simply search for Emden updates. Bulletins will continue to be made and can also be found on our web-site: <https://www.emdenrcrc.org/resources>. If you would like a bulletin mailed to you, please let a member of council or Judy Groen know. An effort by the council is also being made to contact everyone in the congregation. If you have any needs or prayer requests, please let myself or a member of council know. Finally, thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayer. If you would like to continue giving during this time, you may send your offering to PO BOX 390, Renville, MN 56284 or drop it off in the clay pot in the narthex. A new online giving method is now available. A letter of explanation is available on our website: <https://www.emdenrcrc.org/resources> (there is also a copy of the letter in your church mailbox).

You are invited to special Easter Evening Worship Celebration broadcast hosted by area CRC/RCA churches, Sunday evening, April 12, at 6:00pm. Area pastors and musicians will lead a time of worship and proclamation of the Resurrection, based on I Corinthians 15. The broadcast will be live on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/MMmXseFX950> on the Unity CRC channel) and over the Radio - KDJS, 1590AM and

105.7FM. Let's join our hearts in worship of the Risen Lord!  
Next Sunday, April 19, we will be hearing God's word from Acts 1:1-14.

Please consider this prayer challenge: spend 1 minutes each night at 8pm to pray for our nation.

#### **Upcoming dates:**

April 28: council meeting

Rachael Zigterman - I've been trying to think of ways to give back to our community and I'm hoping you will join me. There are so many people we could thank who are working hard; however, I would like to focus on our health care workers. This week I would like to specifically focus on the staff who work at RenVilla Health Center/ Nursing Home. Many of us have people we know and love living there and I would like to thank the staff for their hard work, going the extra mile to connect families to their loved ones and being family for the residents during this difficult time. I was hoping to provide lunch and supper this next week however because of the governors stay at home orders I am staying in contact with the nursing home and Barts to plan a future date. We will be supporting a local restaurant (Bart's Place) as they will provide the meals and (Maynards) for drinks. Please join me in raising enough money to purchase meals for around 55 health workers.

You may donate via the Go Fund Me page or you can mail a check to Emden Christian Reformed Church - 512 Emerson Ave. NW Renville, MN 56284. Make checks payable to "*Emden Christian Reformed Church*" and write "**health care meals**" in the memo. Thanks in advance for supporting and thanking our healthcare workers for their service. Once a date is set I will update you.

#### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A message from our denominational leaders:

We are living in unusual times. As we struggle to do and be church in the midst of COVID-19, we want to encourage you all to shift your attention and remember the Holy Season that we are in. While life may seem chaotic and out of our control, the Easter story reminds us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The gospel proves that his grace triumphs over all else, including our temporary anxiety.

#### **CMCS Annual Society Meeting Postponed**

The Annual Society Meeting scheduled for April 14 to a date later to be determined. A new date and meeting format will be communicated once a date has been determined. Thank you for your continued partnership and support during this time.

The New York Mission Trip Leadership would like to thank all of you for supporting the New York Mission Trip Fundraisers by buying fruit, bars, coming out to the Pizza Ranch and bringing your items for donation to the New 2 You Thrift Store. We so appreciate your support! We are disappointed that we were not able to take the trip as planned because of the Coronavirus outbreak.

**Regarding Synod 2020** - A special meeting of the Program Committee of Synod (officers of last year's synod), the Executive Committee of the Council of Delegates, Rev. Kathy Smith (CRCNA polity adviser), and Rev. Dirk Van Eyk (pastor of the convening church of Synod 2020) was held last Friday to consider the meeting of Synod 2020 given the current COVID-19 pandemic. This members of the Council of Delegates voted electronically to approve: That Synod 2020 be canceled due to the current COVID-19 crisis, and that the Council of Delegates of the CRCNA hold a special meeting (virtually) to address any matters that cannot wait until Synod 2021.

CCT buses are available to pick up and take seniors/shut-ins to the grocery store, etc OR, they can deliver groceries to them. CCT Olivia: 320-523-3589; if you have any questions, you can contact Tiffany at the Willmar office at 320-214-7433.

#### **Renville County Food Shelf**

On the first and third Tuesdays of each month we need help from 8 a.m. to 9:30 or 10 a.m. moving food into the food shelf and sorting food rescue produce. On Mondays and Fridays from 12:45 to 3:15 Wednesdays from 9:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 4:45 to 7:00 p.m. we need volunteers to assist the clients with their shopping. If you are able to help at one of those times, stop in at the food shelf at 108 S. 9th Street in Olivia or call us at 320-523-5339.

**Soles4Souls: Wearing out Poverty** - If you have any shoes you are no longer using, please consider giving your shoes to this organization by placing them in the blue container near the entrance of the church.



## PRAYER CORNER

REQUESTS  
—FOR—  
PRAYER

~ Please remember those in our congregation who have continuous health concerns: Marge Link, Linda Mayer, Gerald Mulder, Darla Ruschen, DeeDee Johnson, Lilah Kleinhuizen, John & Dorothy Aalderks, Carson Groen

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### THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: Laos

#### Young Couple Kicked Out of Home

A young married couple were expelled from their family's home recently after coming to faith in Christ. Phu and Sri married at a young age and moved in with Phu's parents. After Sri gave birth to their daughter, she was often ill and had no one to care for her while Phu was working long hours on a banana plantation. Sri eventually sought prayer from a local house church and was healed of her illness. And in time, both she and her husband placed their faith in Jesus Christ. When Phu's mother found out, however, she beat Sri severely, causing swelling to her face and ears. In addition, she told her son and daughter-in-law that they could no longer live with her. The couple and their baby need a new place to live, and Sri has no family to provide support for them. Pray for Phu, Sri and their baby.

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Continue to pray for area churches: Ebenezer Presbyterian, St. John's Lutheran, First Lutheran, United Methodist, Holy Redeemer, Our Saviors Lutheran, Temple of Jesus Christ, Hispanic Church and Emden. Ask God to continue to move through His church to the glory of His kingdom. Remember—we are part of God's kingdom and need to always be following Him.

Are you continuing to pray that God would use us to share His love and the Good News of the Gospel with our community? Pray that the presence of God will shine through us, the Emden Church Family, and that He will use us in His Kingdom will.

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God"**  
**Philippians 4:6**



## EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE IN A FLASH

When the women arrived at Jesus' tomb on the first Easter morning, they had numerous questions on their hearts and minds. What had happened to Jesus? Where had he been taken?

Then they saw a flash that looked like lightning and angels wearing blinding white who answered their questions with the good news that Jesus had conquered death.

In that moment everything changed—for them and for all of human history. As a result, God is still at work today in amazing ways. Pawan knows that firsthand.

Pawan lives in India where Back to God Ministries International's Hindi outreach team holds regular meetings to share the Gospel with seekers.

"During those meetings," says BTGMI's Hindi ministry leader, "we often give out flash drives that contain devotionals and other materials so that people can use them to learn more about Jesus in their own homes." Pawan received one of those flash drives. At the time, he didn't know how badly he needed it.

"Pawan grew up worshipping spirits and would eventually start telling the fate of the people using black magic," shares BTGMI's Hindi ministry leader. "People would come to him with their issues and learn their fate."

Gradually Pawan became a victim of the dark spiritual world. "Evil spirits possessed him and tormented him," added BTGMI's Hindi ministry leader. "Slowly his body became very weak and stiff. He had multiple diseases, and doctors told him that he would never heal."

Confused and hopeless, Pawan remembered the flash drive he had been given. He plugged it in and began to hear about Jesus and the Gospel. In a flash, he felt hope in his life for the first time in a long time. He reached out to our ministry team and met with a pastor who led him as he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord.

"Pawan believed that Jesus is Lord," our Hindi Ministry leader reported. "And God in his matchless grace delivered Pawan from all his bondages."

God has since used Pawan to be a living testimony to others in his community.

"He is continuously witnessing his faith and testimony to many other people," our ministry leader said. "During our seekers meeting with Pawan's village, we introduced flash drives like the one he first encountered, and he was excited to share them with others."

Pawan's story can be difficult to comprehend from a North American perspective. Like the Resurrection story, there is a lot that we don't fully understand, But that doesn't make it any less miraculous.

"I don't think I'll ever fully understand," Kurt Selles, BTGMI's director says. "But what I do know without a doubt, is that God can save people from anything. That's what Easter is all about."