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Hooper, NE 68031
402-654-3835
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SOME PEOPLE
WILL NEVER COME
TO CHURCH,
LISTEN TO A MINISTER
OR READ THEIR BIBLE.
THEY'RE READING
YOUR LIFE
AND WATCHING HOW
YOU LIVE. BE THE
LIGHT GOD CALLED
YOU TO BE!

APRIL 2026

The Joy of Being Found

Chi and Ben are way too old for Easter egg hunts now, but I still remember those mornings with a smile. I can still picture them racing through the yard, baskets in hand, checking the grass, peeking into rain gutters, looking in bushes, and even searching up in the trees.

As a dad, hiding the eggs was half the fun. You always wanted some eggs to be easy to find. A child needs that early joy of spotting one right away. But you also wanted some to be harder. You wanted them to search a little longer and feel the excitement of discovering something they almost missed. And with two boys, there was always a little strategy involved. Some hiding places were just right for the older one, Chi. Some were better for the younger one, Ben. You knew your children, and you hid the eggs with them in mind.

But here is the thing: you never actually wanted the eggs to stay hidden.

You wanted them to be found.

If one was left behind, you started giving hints. You pointed them back to the bush or toward the tree. The point was never simply hiding. The point was the joy of finding.

That makes me think of our heavenly Father.

There is something beautiful about seeking God. Scripture says, *"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart"* (Jeremiah 29:13). Faith does involve seeking. We seek the Lord in His Word, in prayer, in worship, and in times of need. There are seasons when He seems easy to see, and others when we search more carefully.

But Easter reminds us that the greater truth is not just that we are looking for God. It is that God has come looking for us. Jesus says, *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). That is the heart of Easter. The risen Christ comes for sinners, for doubters, for the grieving, and for the weary. He comes to find us with forgiveness, mercy, and life.

Our hope does not rest on how well we search. It rests on the love of a Father who wants His children found. In Christ, God does not remain distant. He comes near. He calls us by name. He leads us home.

So this Easter, rejoice in this good news: we seek the Lord because He first sought us. The tomb is empty, Christ is risen, and the Father delights to bring His children into the joy of eternal life.

He Is Risen!

Pastor Casey



Pastor Casey Lieneman

PastorLieneman@hotmail.com
402-237-2988 (call or text)



Packing a lunch for Jesus
By Katrina Hamel

She strode awkwardly back from the lakeshore, a basket of wet laundry on one hip, her infant son on the other. Despite her aching back from scrubbing the week's clothes and linens, she felt refreshed from talking with the other women. Who else could understand her daily struggles better than the women who lived her reality day in and day out?

"Come along, Samuel," she called to her three-year-old, half-turning to make sure he was still following. He had a rock clutched in each chubby fist, treasures from his time at the shore. Alizah smiled. More for the growing collection.

She turned sideways to fit through the doorway to their home and crossed through to the enclosed courtyard. The dirt already smelled hot from the morning sun. Setting the baby in a shady corner, she began to shake out the clothes as she hung them on the line to dry. Samuel added his rocks to his pile to free his hands to feed fistfuls of hay to the goat.

Alizah ran through her mental list. She had already fetched the day's water for the house and garden. She had milked the goat. She had fed Samuel his bread and date honey while she taught him from memory about the scriptures. After hanging the laundry, she needed to grind the barley for tomorrow's bread. The shepherd boy should be here soon to take the goat to pasture for the day. Then there was the dusting and sweeping. She needed to get a few more rows done on her weaving or her husband's new robe would never be finished. Then there was lunch for herself and the boys, including her oldest son who was at school until then. She planned to make a lentil stew for supper, and there was the fish she cooked last night to add to the meal. Elisha was always famished when he returned he returned from a day's hard work.

She hung the last cloth on the line and stood up to knuckle her back. All this had to be done while making sure Samuel didn't get into trouble, plus having to stop to nurse little Avi every couple of hours, and pausing everything to put the boys down to nap.

She was vigorously grinding the grain when she heard a voice calling from outside the house, "Mama! Mama!"

She looked up as her oldest boy, Alexander, ran into the house. He was nine years old and missing his top four front teeth.

"Alex, what are you doing home from school so early?" she said, sitting back on her heels.

"I forgot to tell you!" he panted with his eyes aglow. "Rabbi is taking us all out to see the prophet today! He is up on the mountain, and thousands and thousands are going to see him."

"You should tell me these things as soon as you hear about them," Alizah sighed. "You need me to pack a lunch then?"

Alexander nodded as Alizah rose to her feet and went to the shelves. The boy would be tired from his long walk, and may not be back until after supper, so she packed him five barley loaves and two fish. She rolled it up in a cloth and handed him the bundle with a kiss on his forehead. "Listen well to your rabbi, and the prophet."

"Yes, Mama!" he grinned and dashed out the door. She stepped outside and lifted a hand to shield her gaze from the sunshine as he scampered to join his waiting classmates. The boys varied in age, and all of them looked eager for their adventure. Rabbi Mordecai raised his hand to her in greeting, and she waved back.

She felt a tug of disappointment that she couldn't go with Alexander. After being involved in every moment of his life for the first seven years, it was still hard to see him go off to experience new things without her. A lump rose in her throat as she saw other men and women heading down the street to listen to the prophet. She couldn't help feeling left out and left behind. She had heard some of what the prophet taught and had heard of his miracles. She wished she could see him for herself.

"Mama! Avi is eating my rock!" Samuel protested from inside the house and Alizah hurried back inside to rescue the baby from his big brother's sharing.



04/01 Austin Kremke
04/01 Craig Taylor
04/04 Chance Foust
04/05 Joel Hargens
04/05 David Bloch
04/06 Tim Schafersman
04/06 Evan French
04/07 Dawson Schafersman
04/08 Dawn Christianson
04/08 Owen Yang
04/09 Stephanie Johnson
04/10 Jed Oberg
04/15 David Hingst
04/15 Nick Janssen
04/15 Todd Smith

04/15 Joshua Volpp
04/17 Tami Clausen
04/17 Chase Larson-Maurer
04/18 Jaki Moeller
04/19 Alex Foust
04/21 Cindy Wragge
04/21 Kinleigh Wragge
04/22 Allison Fachman
04/22 Robert Sprick
04/23 Neely Taylor
04/24 Derek Dam
04/24 Coby Amen
04/25 Jan Walraven
04/26 Carmen Larson-Maurer

04/26 Dean Albus
04/26 Kris Kremke
04/26 Harper Coonrod
04/26 Jake Rynes
04/28 Brigham Johnson



04/22 Roger & Dianne Huntman
04/25 Brett & Mindi Egbers

April Worship Stewards

ALTAR Guild - Codi Oberg

LECTOR

April 5 Ann Sprick
April 12 Tami Clausen
April 19 Gail Bopp
April 26 Cory Kriete

SOUND

April 2 Mark Cuda
April 3 Katelyn Smith
April 5 7AM Marty Clausen
April 5 9AM Ron Bopp
April 12 Marty Clausen
April 19 Kris Kremke
April 26 Cody Weitzenkamp

VIDEO

April 2 Jan Blomendahl
April 3 Steph Johnson
April 5 7AM Tami Clausen
April 5 9AM Gail Bopp
April 12 Steph Johnson
April 19 Tami Clausen
April 26 Jan Blomendahl

USHERS

April 2 Cody Weitzenkamp & Dwight Dam
April 3 Will Johnson
April 5 7AM Marty Clausen
April 5 9AM Joel Von Seggern & Mike Moeller
April 12 Ron Bopp & Bob Weisenberg

April 19 Chad Rebbe & Derek Hoetfelker
April 26 Marty Clausen & Trent Wragge

COMMUNION DEACONS

April 2 Shari Smith
April 5 7AM Shari Smith
April 5 9AM Lisa Von Seggern
April 19 Sally Oberg

WELCOME HELPERS

April 5 Lon & Keyla Strand
April 12 Coby & Dani Amen
April 19 Bob & Peg Weisenberg
April 26 Ralph & Linda Nelson

ACOLYTES

April 5 Will Foust
April 12 Kohen Osborn
April 19 Olivia Kreikemeier
April 26 Kael Clausen

COFFEE HOSTS

April 5 Redeemer Youth
April 12 Kriete
April 19 Clausen
April 26 Bopp

ACCAMPIANISTS

Sue Beckner, Rita Cuda, Julie Wiles



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Worship	3 7:00PM Good Friday Worship 8:00PM AA & Al Anon	4
5 Easter Sunday 7:00AM Sunrise Worship HC 9:00AM Worship HC 10:00AM Sunday School/Egg Hunt 7:30AM to 10:30AM Breakfast	6 12:30 Willing Workers	7	8 4:15-5:15PM Confirmation	9	10 8:00PM AA & Al Anon	11
12 9:00AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study	13	14	15 4:15-5:15PM Confirmation 6:00PM Council	16	17 8:00PM AA & Al Anon	18
19 9:00AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study	20 12:30 Willing Workers	21	22 4:15-5:15PM Confirmation	23	24 8:00PM AA & Al Anon	25
26 9:00AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study	27	28	29 4:15-5:15PM Confirmation	30		

The sun was already down, Elisha home from work, and the little boys in bed by the time Alexander returned. Alizah was tired from her day's work, but she rose eagerly to greet her son with a hug. His face was gleaming with wonder.

"How was your day?" Alizah asked.

"Amazing," Alexander breathed.

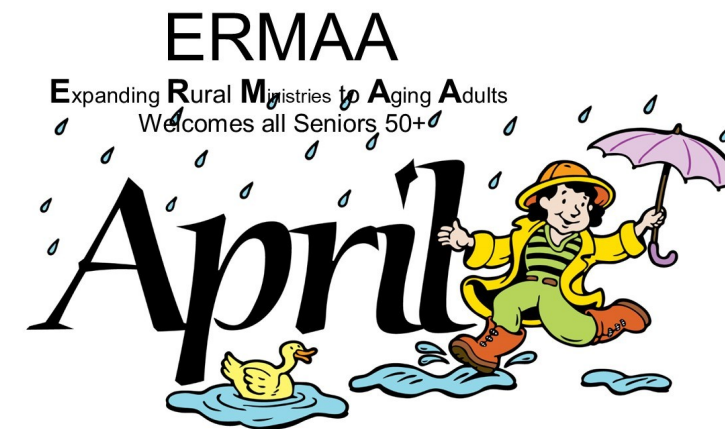
Elisha laughed and asked his son, "Did you see the prophet?"

"I sure did. And Mama—" Alexander looked up at her with a huge, toothless grin "—you'll never guess what Jesus did with the lunch you made."

Have you ever felt like my fictional character, Alizah? You've got a million and one things to do, children and a home to care for, but you wish you could cram in one more good thing?

This morning, I was feeling overwhelmed with all the little things I had to do today. I was wishing I could do something that "mattered"—and I was sure loading the dishwasher didn't make the cut. I found myself thinking about the boy who gave his lunch to Jesus, and I had one of those "aha!" moments where I realized Jesus couldn't have used that lunch to do something astoundingly huge if someone hadn't done the little, simple task of packing it. As she cared for her son, Alizah had no idea she was packing lunch for Jesus!

How many little, simple things do we do every day in our homes and workplaces? As we do them, we have no idea which little thing God will use to show His glory in someone's life. So, tired moms and dads, I encourage you to press on with all the little things, even if you're feeling disappointed that you couldn't participate in the big things. You never know which daily task will grow into something miraculous.



Card Party

Sunday, April 12
2:00– 4:00 p.m.
St. John Lutheran CCL
123 Co. Rd 16 Blvd
Scribner



Friday, April 24
2:00– 4:00 p.m.
Hooper Senior Center
208 N. Main St. Hooper



Bring your Friends & enjoy a fun afternoon!

BINGO NIGHT

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win some cash prizes at this fun-filled event. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from January through April. Food stand available. Try our walking tacos!

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY NIGHTS | **DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM**
BINGO STARTS AT 6:30 PM

HOOPER AMERICAN LEGION POST #18
113 N. MAIN ST.

President: Lon Strand **President Elect:** Dwight Dam **Past President:** Cindy Wragge **Secretary:** Shari Smith
Directors of Ministry Teams: Derek Hoetfelker, Sally Oberg, Nick Janssen, Lisa Von Seggern, Jan Blomendahl
Worship Accompanists: Sue Beckner, Julie Wiles, Rita Cuda



Several people asked for the recipe's for the soups that were served during Lent.

Below are the ones I received. Enjoy!



Taco Soup

- 1 1/2 pound browned hamburger
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1 can (1lb 12oz) petite diced tomatoes
- 1 can original Rotelle with chilies
- 2 cans Hormel chili (one with beans and one without)
- 16 oz sour cream
- 1 lb Velveeta cubed

Mix all ingredients together and heat until cheese is melted.

Serve with chili cheese Fritos, extra shredded cheese and sour cream

Crockpot Potato Soup

- 32oz frozen cubed hash brown potatoes
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup chopped, cooked bacon or cubed ham
- 1 8 oz block cream cheese

Optional:

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
Seasonings as desired: 1 small ranch seasoning packet, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, & pepper.

Combine all ingredients in your slow cooker and cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours.

Minestrone Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 3 cloves garlic (minced)
- 2 ribs celery (chopped)
- 2 medium carrots (peeled and sliced)
- 4 cups vegetable broth (or chicken broth)
- 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 (15-ounce) can red kidney beans (drained)
- 1 (15-ounce) can white beans (drained)
- 1 cup chopped green beans
- 1 medium zucchini (chopped)
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¾ cup small pasta (elbow, shells, etc.)
- salt and pepper (to taste)
- grated parmesan cheese (optional)

Instructions:

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Cook the onion, garlic, celery, and carrots for 7-8 minutes until softened.

Add the broth, tomatoes, red beans, white beans, green beans, zucchini, Italian seasoning, and sugar. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Cook and cook for 15 minutes.

Stir in the pasta and cook for 8-10 more minutes until the pasta is al dente. Season with salt and pepper, then ladle into bowls can add freshly grated parmesan cheese.

Council Minutes

Redeemer Church council on Wednesday, February 25th at 6:00 PM. Members present: Cindy Wragge, Sally Oberg, Lisa Von Seggern, Pastor Casey, Jan Blomendahl, Lon Strand, Dwight Dam, Nick Janssen and Shari Smith. Absent: Derek Hoetfelker. Lon called the meeting to order and Pastor Casey opened with a prayer and gave his report. He has two upcoming weddings. One in August and one in September. He had one funeral in March. He has one baptism coming in March. First communion classes are being held on March 22 and March 29. The 5th grade youth will receive first communion on Maundy Thursday (April 2). He thanked the ministry teams for the great soups during lent and for matching them with his sermon series. Holy week services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are both at 7PM. Easter sunrise service is at 7AM and Easter worship is at 9AM. Confirmation camp is July 12-17 at Camp Luther in Schuyler. Dwight moved and Cindy seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried. Church property had no report. Mission support shared financials. Spiritual Fellowship and Outreach met. They discussed who will be doing cards for the next two months; they served FCA on March 18 and plan on serving KFC on March 25th; They will make May baskets for the our shut-ins. They will do a meal again on the 4th of July. Worship and Music did not meet. Youth & Learning met; Easter Sunday (April 5th) was discussed and the youth will again serve breakfast. VBS dates will be Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3 every morning from 9AM to 11:30AM. The last day of KFC is March 25. The last day of Sunday school is May 10th. They will be inviting all 6th graders who attend KFC to confirmation. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00PM. The next meeting will be April 15, 2026 at 6:00PM The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer. Respectfully submitted, Shari Smith, recording secretary

Easter Schedule at Redeemer

Maundy Thursday April 17, 7:00PM service

5th graders receive Holy Communion

Good Friday April 18 7:00 PM service

Easter Sunday

Sunrise service at 7:00AM

9:00AM with Holy Communion

10:00AM Sunday School and Egg Hunt

Youth will serve Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 7:30AM to 10:30AM

Only Jesus could
build a bridge to
heaven with just
two pieces of
wood.



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