



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

April 2025

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From the Pastor's Office

Revelation 21:1-4:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new

earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.'"

Hoping in Heaven vs. Hoping in the Resurrection

First, let's talk about the word "hope." In America, the way we use the word "hope" is often in connection with future events that are uncertain: "I hope the weather will be nice tomorrow." In the Kingdom of God, our hope is in future events that will certainly happen because God's Word is true. Over and over again in the Psalms and many other places in the Bible, the people of God are encouraged to hope in the Lord. For example, "Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:5). In this case, the word "hope" is equated with a sense of trust.

What we place our trust in regarding future events makes a difference in how we live now. That's why the first commandment is "you shall have no other gods". Martin Luther's explanation

is, "What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things" (Luther's Small Catechism). We don't trust in idols; we don't trust in gods we think we can control; we don't trust in created things or ourselves first. Instead, we trust the self-existent Lord our God, whose image cannot be made into an idol. He remains unseen to us. Trusting in God above all things saves us from all kinds of trouble in this life and certainly in the life to come.

Many think that Heaven is the end goal. They believe that we are looking forward to dying so our soul can be separated from our body and go to Heaven, as if we are souls trapped in bodies and that the separation of the soul from the physical body is a good thing. This type of disdain for the physical body is not a Christian idea; it came from the Gnostics, who thought the physical world was created by a lower god with ill intent toward God and humans. Most of the books in the New Testament contain statements that are in opposition to Gnosticism (e.g., Colossians 2:8-10).

So why is it so common to think this way in church? I believe some of that may be leftover from Gnostic philosophy, but I think even more than that, as humans, we have a difficult time seeing this physical world as being any different from what it is right now. We have a tendency to want to explain everything in a natural way, outside of God's oversight and plan.

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Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

April at PLC

APRIL 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sundays:

- 6, 13, 27** **9:15am** Sunday School for Everyone
10:30am Worship service with Communion
- 13** **11:30am** Coffee Fellowship
10:30am Recognition of New Members & a Baptism during the service
 Celebration Lunch Following the service
- 20** **10:30am** Worship service with Communion
 Brunch Following Service

Tuesdays:

- 8** **6:00pm** Mission Committee meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 2** **9:00am** Men's breakfast @ Perkins Hwy 55 & 494
6:00pm Lent Service
- 9** **6:00pm** Lent Service
- 23, 30** **9:30am** Men's and Ladies Bible Studies @ the church
6:00pm Evening Bible Study

Thursdays:

- 17** **6:00pm** Maundy Thursday Service

Fridays:

- 18** **6:00pm** Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturdays:

- 12** **9:00am** Church Work Day
19 **9:30am** Brunch Set-up & Prep

Celebrate Our Congregation

April Birthdays:

Erik	Lunn	4/2
Elise	O'Neill	4/6
James	O'Neill	4/6
Janis	Saari	4/7
Don	Besonen	4/9
Phyllis	Krumholz	4/10
Brigette	Olson	4/11
Lorraine	Besonen	4/13
Peter	Maikkula	4/22

April Anniversaries:

John & Jan	4/10
Earl & Karen C	4/15
Reuben & Anita	4/19
Noel & Kris	4/20
Pr. Joel & Susan	4/27

Save The Date

Wednesday Evening Lent Services @ 6pm

3/5 James 1:22-2:26,
 "Faith & Works"

3/12 James 3,
 "A Fiery Tongue or a Wise Tongue?"

3/19 James 4:1-10,
 "Humble Yourselves"

3/26 James 4:11—5:6,
 "Judging, Boasting, & Wealth"

4/2 James 1:1-21,
 "Trials & Temptations"

4/9 James 5:7-20,
 "Patience & Prayer"

April 17 – Maundy Thursday

April 18 – Good Friday

April 20 - Easter Sunday

Brunch following the service



EASTER Brunch following the service.

Sign-up sheets for attending and for helping are on the narthex desk



Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, April 12th Church Clean-up from 9am-12pm

This is an opportunity to help maintain the beauty and value of our church building and grounds. Please bring your work gloves and a can-do attitude. See Noel Walters with questions.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY STARTS APRIL 23

All women are invited to join the 11-week spring Bible Study, which starts April 23, 9:30.

Topic is: “The Image of Christ in Women” and we are using material from the women's ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Contact Janis Saari to get the workbook, cost is \$3.00. We meet in the small room off of the narthex. Questions? Janis 763-639-5934

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This is an easy answer to give kids when you don't know what to say. My hope was in going to Heaven, where she was. Heaven became my hope for the future. But is that what the Bible teaches us to look forward to?

The Bible does talk about the souls of Christians who make it through persecution being there (Revelation 6:9-11). But for them, it's more of a waiting place rather than the end goal. The reality is that Heaven is God's throne room. He sits on His throne in Heaven (Revelation 4:2). One day, Heaven and earth will pass away, and God's Word will remain (Matthew 24:35). God's Word says that there will be a new Heaven and a new earth, and that His throne will be on the new earth (Revelation 21:1-4).

In reality, the Bible speaks about the resurrection and us having physical bodies much more than it does about souls going to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:20-22,42-44). This plan to live with God in a physical place is what we are told to put our hope in. That is what we are looking forward to!

What is the significance? Why make this distinction? I've heard some Christians talk about going to Heaven and living in the resurrection as if they are interchangeable terms that mean the same thing. I think that's fine as long as you remember that the end goal is a real physical body and being in the real physical presence of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the Holy Spirit.

Our goal is not to leave our earthly body or to be free from it, but rather to have God make it new and for us to live with Him (Philippians 3:20-21). Our citizenship is already in Heaven. Right now we live as foreigners and ambassadors on earth, but in one day Heaven will be joined with earth (Revelation 21:1-4). This reality changes how we see the world around us and how we see others. It changes our view of wanting to preserve life and see others come to faith in Jesus.

We won't be floating around on clouds playing harps, doing nothing. That idea seems rather boring. Instead, we will live in a world much like our own but different in every way, a world that is not corrupted by sin. We will live in new bodies that are not corrupted by sin and not given to decay, among people who are not corrupted by sin but are free in every way to live happy, full lives—unashamed, without anxiety, without anger, without malice, without bitterness, without greed, and full of love for one another, in complete unity with God as He is in complete unity with Himself. That is an amazing reality to hope in. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, Revelation 21:1-4, Galatians 5:22-23, John 17:21-23)

God's Peace,
Pr. Ryan Kandoll

Prayer Flash from TheFiveHive: March 2025

Dear Prayer Warriors,

In the past week we've had a number of friends share amazing answers to prayer for significant needs of theirs:

- A home for their family to stay in during furlough--for free!
- A family member giving their life to Jesus.
- Friends choosing to go to counseling to restore their marriage.
- A new family coming to Ukarumpa at just the right time to meet an immediate need in Aviation.
- A safe place to stay for the night after their car broke down in a remote place in Papua New Guinea.
- A travel visa being approved at the last minute.
- The baptism of one of Derek's former youth group boys (who is now in college).

We know that God is concerned with every part of our life, and there is nothing hidden from Him! He will get the glory no matter the trials we face.

We have an urgent prayer request that we would like to share with you.

The family that has been renting our home in Minnesota has decided to not renew the lease and have moved out. Our property manager has been unable to find a qualified renter to live in our home. We really need to have our home rented out to not only pay the mortgage but also take care of the place.

Can you pray that God would provide someone to rent our home soon*?

It is very encouraging to see God answer prayers in the lives of our friends, and right now we are having faith that He will guide us and answer ours as well.

Thank you for praying for this need with us!

Unswervingly,
Derek and Kristy

*Our ideal would be April 1st. We will return to Minnesota after Trent graduates (June 2026), which is just over a year away. The longer our home sits empty, the tougher it will be to find someone to sign a lease that ends when we return.

A movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society

March 2025 (by Daniel)

"Walk as children of the light" Ephesians 5:8



Dear friend,

This year, Recharge training was special for us.

For the first time, we did not just organize the event and use premade videos, but we did everything from scratch.

Early in January, Deniska, with our Camps team, was in charge of creating 4-5 teaching videos for the Recharge event. We had only 2 weeks to write it, shoot it, and our colleagues did the postproduction of the videos.

Actually, everything went pretty smoothly. Beny, Adka and I were teaching in the videos and I really enjoyed it. But why camp team, you may ask? The topic is GLOW & GO. Focusing on evangelism and how to do it with your youth group to bring much fruit.

"Walk as children of the light". Ep 5:8

We are supposed to bring the light of the Lord to Slovakia and the rest of the world. Have we seen new people come to our churches? Have we seen new students come to our youth groups?

Are our hearts broken for the lost? Have you ever thought of people in your proximity? People in your school, work, neighbors, family, church, or just people you do not know yet.

We have focused on 4 parts on how to do this:

Reframe

Inspire

Mobilize

Energize

To make it practical, participants completed a simple worksheet with five guiding questions to help them take action in their own regions—learning to Glow and Go.

We also created a simple website, <https://sviet.sk>, where anyone can add a pin to mark the places and dates where the Gospel was shared or where someone responded to it.

Feedback from Participants:

- ◆ “Thank you for this event. I have accepted the challenge to boldly ask those who are spiritually hesitant to follow Jesus.”
- ◆ “As a youth group, we will pray for boldness and courage to share the Gospel.”
- ◆ “We will bring this theme back to our youth group and plan how we can share the Gospel intentionally.”
- ◆ “I’ve realized my family needs to hear the Gospel—I want to act on this right away.”



Some stats:

254 participants

3x main regional event: west, center, east of Slovakia

4x local church event



JV Winter Academy

In the middle of January, we drove to the Czech Republic, to Malenovice, for the **JV Winter Academy event**.

Deniska and I had the privilege of **teaching Josiah Venture missionaries** at JV Academy. This special event is designed to support full-time missionaries who have been on the field for one or two years, equipping them to start strong and thrive in their ministries across various countries. We were excited to host 20 students representing multiple nations!

It was a winter wonderland! ❄️

However, as we arrived, our car got stuck on one of the hills and had to be pulled out by a tractor. 🤖



Camp team retreat

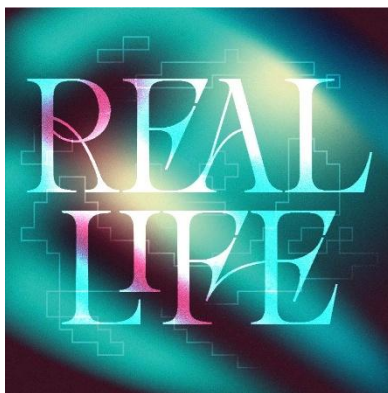


Our team spent three days in the Liptov area, planning and dreaming about the future of Camps ministry. We focused on identifying key needs and finding ways to support our Slovak teams.

We are incredibly grateful for the beautiful partnerships we have in both Slovakia and the United States.

It was truly amazing to work, dream, and plan alongside my close friends and colleagues!

In February and March, I worked on creating **CAMP TALKS** for this summer. The theme is **REAL LIFE**, where we'll show students that life with Jesus isn't necessarily an easier life—but it is **real life**!



Obišovce church



Our contemporary church services are going strong! Each month, we welcomed a guest speaker who guided us through a different spiritual discipline.

Although these past months were filled with sickness, and we couldn't always be as involved in church as we would have liked, I'm grateful I was able to attend our contemporary service each month.

Mentoring teams



Over the past few months, I had the opportunity to mentor three different teams as they prepared for their summer camps and youth ministries. Teams were Prešov, Žilina and Trenčín.

I've truly enjoyed this experience and hope it continues!



From our home

Throwback to Christmas Eve

And of course, New Years Eve as well



Luna as a Dragon fairy at Karneval (dress up party for kids in kindergarden)

The due date is now the 31st of March.

WE ARE READY!



If you want to see and know more, please look at D&D Life on the hill or let us know and we can set up a call sometime.

KPM will be held this weekend in Žilina

Most of you know that I like numbers and statistics.

KPM conference starts in 2 days in Žilina.

The room you see has a little over 600 seats.

Right now, we have:

445 Attendees (76 more than last year) and

140 Volunteers (3 more than last year)

169 will attend KPM for the first time, which is 38% of all attendees.

We will see how many people come last minute and what happens when we run out of seats in the house.

Please pray for KPM.

Please pray for:

- pregnancy and health of a baby and Deniska
- for summer camps this summer
- effective training events for Slovak youth leaders
- KPM happening this week in Žilina
- Obišovce church and contemporary services
- Luna's health so that she may grow in "wisdom and stature" (Lk 2:52)

Thank you very much for standing with us in prayer.

If you are interested, on this link you can find the Josiah Venture prayer app and you can lift up in prayers the whole ministry in 16 countries of Eastern and Central Europe.

We are grateful that you are standing with us and praying for us.

Daniel and Denisa Harčar

D&D Life on the hill

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This email is sent in order to inform you about ministry in Slovakia.

Our mailing address is:

Daniel & Denisa Harčar

Drienovska Nova Ves 256

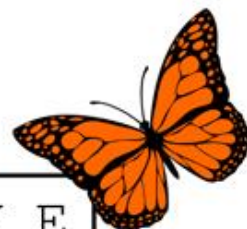
Presov 08201

Slovakia

Add us to your address book.



Spring Flowers



P	T	T	X	C	P	E	T	U	N	I	A	N	X	E
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Y	R	O	N	L	T	O	Y	F	T	U	L	I	P	S

Word list:

AZALEA

DAISY

LILY

ROSE

CARNATION

FORSYTHIA

MARIGOLD

SUNFLOWER

COSMOS

GERANIUM

PANSY

TULIP

CROCUS

IRIS

PETUNIA

VIOLET

DAFFODIL

LILAC

POPPY

ZINNIA

