

TRINITY MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS



PASTOR'S POST

HE IS RISEN!

No, this is not some April Fools' Joke, He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Can you imagine that first Easter. *Sitting, hiding, mourning.* Jesus, the Christ has been killed. Not some random death by accident, but by thought out, planned, deceptive destruction. Christ was crucified. Now what? What's next? Are we next? These are the thoughts of the disciples as they cowered away in the room. Their eyes glistening over with tears, with exhaustion, with fear. Now What!?!

Easter morning arrives, and soon a knock on the door as Mary, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and Salome come to tell them what they have just seen. "We went to bring spices to the tomb and when we got there, the tomb was opened, the large stone had been rolled away. When we looked in, there were two men, who told us that Jesus, the one who had been crucified and whom we were looking for was no longer there, but that he is raised from the dead!"

Peter and John hurriedly take off to the tomb, no longer in a dazed stupor, and find the tomb as the women had said. There is no body. Where is Jesus? Here are the cloths in which he was wrapped and laid. Where are the guards who were put to seal it off? Now What!?!

Going back to the room to hide once again, a new man appears. Who is this man? Who let him in? Where did he come from? "Have you anything here to eat?" What an interesting question. Jesus asks for food. Why? Because having thought it was a spirit, do spirits eat? It is Jesus in true flesh. He's here with them, he is not a ghost. Jesus is raised. Now What!?!

That is exactly the point, Now What? What does this mean for the disciples, what does it mean for you, what does it mean for the world? Now What? We came to church on Easter Sunday and heard the good news of Christ's resurrection. Did you know that every Sunday when we come to church we get to celebrate that first Easter morning again, and again. That is why we come on Sunday's to reflect, to remember, to rejoice in our Saviors resurrection because with it, we know we too will be raised. So now what?

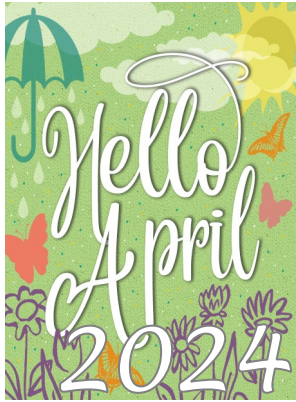
Now, we are saved. Now we are brought back to our Father in Heaven without fear. Now we have the promise of eternal life with Him who conquered, sin, the devil, and death by rising and that is no joke!

Having just celebrated Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord we now *Rise, come forward, rejoice* while proclaiming the great Gospel message of our Saviors death and Resurrection for everyone. Our Lord has commanded all of us to go and proclaim His love to the world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:19)

Teaching them? Yes, we are to continue to learn each and every day. We are to come to worship, to learn. We are to read our Bibles and Catechisms, to learn. We are to go to Bible Study, to learn. I invite each and everyone of you to daily be in the Word. Come to Bible Class to dig in even farther as some have said they would not know what to make of what they had read had it not been for the discussion and explanations. Come hear the Word, come to the Word, and come live in the Word because the Word Himself lives.

He is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

✠ Pastor Nygaard



Pastor Brian J. Nygaard

7950 Marshall Street
Merrillville, IN
46410-5293

(219) 769-5376

WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY
9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL &
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:30 AM

THURSDAY
BIBLE STUDY
9:00 AM

Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

Online links at
tmlchurch.com



Worship? What is it?

Traditional, contemporary, blended, liturgical, creative worship, hymns, songs; what is your preference, what is required, what is needed to be a true worship service? Many have fought over these matters of the church for years and even for centuries. I have heard parishioners say, “I will not go to church because the organ is a horrible sounding instrument and I hate it.” Others have said, “I do not want to hear a band play during the service.” Music has been a hot button topic when it comes to how it should be used within a service. The early church didn’t have either of these types of music, so does that mean both or either are wrong in their usage? Of course not.

Well then, what about how the service is designed or the order of worship, or lack of order for a service? I have been a part of churches that have used various methods of liturgical use and been to several that have no liturgical design at all. The service begins with a rock concert and ended with the same. Somewhere in the middle a pastor got up and talked for 30 minutes and then invited others to tell their own faith stories. What liturgical setting was this? Very limited scripture was spoken and it all was pointed to one person, and no it was not Jesus, it is pointed to the individual themselves. Who are they, where are they in their faith, what have they done to help others, what more can they do? Is this truly what is needed when we look at worship?

A Latin phrase is always helpful when we look at worship. *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*. Now many are going, I don’t read Latin and that is ok. What you should know is that this phrase means, “the law of worshiping found the law of believing”. This was believed to have been written by Prosper of Aquitaine (a lay monk and disciple of Augustine) between AD 435 and AD 442. But now what does this mean? (The great Lutheran question). It means that liturgy has been the primary way the Church has handed down faith to future generations. What is done in a worship service shapes the faith of the people. You can go to a church and see their beliefs in their liturgy, hymns, preaching, catechesis; their daily worship.

As we continue our journey together as congregation and pastor, we will show our faith, our beliefs, who we are through all that we do in our liturgy, hymns, preaching, and catechesis. Our lives will be molded through our worship and not the other way around. Today we see many churches molding their worship by the way they live. If this is the case, worship will be about death because that is how we live each and every day without our faith. As an individual who lives in sin, we live in death and that is why we need our worship. Through our worship we receive the forgiveness of sins.

So what then is essential for Lutheran worship if this is what shapes who each one is? Well for starters, the forgiveness of sins. Some do not provide any type of absolution for their parishioners. They come to the service and never receive Christ’s forgiveness. They may hear of it through how Christ lived, but that is why in our liturgy, we are diligent in our proclamation that through the command of our Lord, as the pastor, in Jesus’ stead, all who have truly confessed are forgiven of their sins. This is done prior to the service even beginning so that as one enters into it, they do not have the burden of guilt weighing upon them and along with that, since all are dead in sin, they are risen new in this forgiveness.

Now that all who are in the service are alive in Christ and because of Christ, the living can enter into the service to thank God for all He has given. That is what worship is about. It is a person's response to what God has done for them. It is God coming to them in the worship and the worshiper going to God. This outward act is not contributing in anyway to ones salvation but rather a thankful act for the salvation promised to all believers.

While some may say that worship in the Lutheran church is boring, repetitive, old-fashioned, it does what is required, needed, and spiritually wanted. It provides the means of grace through Word and Sacrament. At the time of the Reformation, Lutherans chose ways of worship that were drawn from the Scriptures and were based on the commands that Christ gave his church. Throughout time, some of these practices have been accepted and others rejected. These were done so with Lutheran reformers asking the questions: What fits with the teachings of Christ and apostles as revealed in the Word of God (*sola scriptura*)? What fits with the gracious love of God in Christ that we are saved by grace alone (*sola gratia*)? What fits with God's declaration that "a man is justified by faith without deeds of the law" (*sola fide*)? This then brings about the liturgy that we use and proclaim God's forgiving love through His Words and His Sacraments.

With all of this, we can see that God's Word, His forgiving love, which is poured out to us through the Word. This is important to remember for all of us as we come to worship to receive what God has provided. This then leads us to the cross and we can see what is truly offered for us; Christ and the atoning sacrifice. Through His sacrifice we see the new life we have in him and because of this, our traditions, being man made have no true bearing but to direct us to God's love so we can hear, receive and accept God's great forgiveness. Finally, because of this we pray. We pray to our Heavenly Father for all He does and we thank and praise him as we worship.

2025 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING NEWS

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA

Here is the **PLANNING TIMELINE** for ENDURE

April 2024

- Join us for our Gathering Update on Zoom on April 11.
- Develop a fundraising plan using initial budget and fundraising ideas.

May 2024

- Listen to the End Goals Podcast Gathering episode released on May 7.
- Join us for our Gathering Update on Zoom on May 9.
- Begin the process of recruiting and selecting adult leaders for the Gathering.





<https://www.lcms.org/payne>

Culture Bites

Here you will find a small sample, tiny nibble or little bite of some of the things we are learning about Tanzania.

If you have watched The Lion King, you have heard *Hakuna Matata*, which the movie states; "it means no worries." While this phrase is used in Kenya, it isn't actually used here in Tanzania. If you want to say, "there is no problem," you would say, "*Hakuna Shida*." You could also say, "*Hapana Shida*" which means "no problem." Or better yet, you could say, "*Hamna shida*." This actually means "no worries." All three of these are used often with a little nuance, but *hamna shida* is used the most in many different situations. So, *Hamna Shida*, it means no worries, for the rest of our days!



lcms INTERNATIONAL
MISSION
SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to bryan.payne@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Lost in Translations

Dear Friends and Family,

"...the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished..." (Acts 2:6-7).

The Payne family is now doing their best to get lost in translations of Swahili and English! We have completed half our language training and are loving every minute of it!



The Paynes with their language teachers Steward, Naomi and Upendo.

A typical weekday for us looks like this: We rise around 6:40 a.m. so we can get ourselves ready to go to school. We eat breakfast together before we walk down to the main road to catch transport to town where our language classes are held. The children learn together in one class while Bryan and Keah learn together in another. We have three language teachers, and they rotate between the classes so that we can hear and learn different accents. After two hours of learning and practicing it is 10 a.m. which is tea time here! Everyone from the non-profit next door takes their tea time near our classroom. People come around with various homemade foods for sale. We typically get *chapatis* (like flour tortillas) or *mandazi* (almost like donut holes with less sugar).

Our language classes continue on after our tea time for another two hours having us end around 12:30 p.m. Our language teachers encourage us to move about freely around town and to the markets to practice speaking Swahili. So a couple days a week we might walk around town and chat with people, but most days we head home for lunch. We eat lunch together as a family, typically just peanut butter sandwiches, chips and some yummy fruit.

In the afternoons we do our homework and try to rest a bit around our host family's home. They have space for the kids to run and climb and play. The big boulders here remind us of the boulders of the Wichita Mountains in Lawton, Oklahoma. The kids are typically covered in dirt and sand by dinner time. Again, we eat as a family sometimes trying Tanzanian foods! One of the kids favorites is the *Ugali* which is Tanzania's staple food made from maize flour. One of their less favorite foods is called *dagaa*. It is minnow sized fish, which are caught, sun dried and then cooked to rehydrate them. They are cooked with onion and tomato. When Rory saw dinner that night she stated, "their little eyes are staring at me!" Dalton followed with, "We have to eat all the bones too?" We have been asking the children to always try everything at least one bite, so they did eat *dagaa*, eyes and bones!



Rory and Dalton walking down the path.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our minds to comprehend the language of Swahili so we can better communicate for the mission set before us.
- Health as we are now in Africa.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The birthdays of Rory and Bryan.
- Making it halfway through language training.
- The hospitality we have been shown throughout our travels.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us in so many ways, such as you!



All the friends Rory shared her cake with.

In the evenings after dinner we have some quiet time where the kids have been drawing or writing, Bryan reading and Keah doing some embroidery. This time is followed by showers or at least leg washing before tucking the kids into their beds and mosquito nets. We go to sleep to the local evening and night sounds of Iringa quieting

down. If we're lucky a gentle rain may sing us to sleep, but it may also be the dogs barking and crickets chirping.

There are Muslims here in this part of Tanzania, and therefore, we hear the calls to prayer very loudly every day. We use these as reminders for us to also pray for these people. God hears our prayers, and we are so thankful for all of you who are supporting our family through your prayer! We have been relatively healthy and adjusting slowly to this new country.

You can check out [our Facebook page](#) for more pictures and highlights. Also, don't forget to check out the podcast, "5 Minutes with a Missionary," at this [link](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts. We will be in Season 6.

God's Peace,

Rev. Bryan, Dcs. Keah, Rory, & Dalton

Kids' Corner

This is a month of birthdays for our family. Rory and Bryan both are gaining another year! In Swahili classes we learned to sing Happy Birthday in Swahili to surprise Rory during tea time the day of her Birthday! We also had cake, and if you remember one of our first culture bites about sharing cake, Rory got to share her birthday cake with all the workers who have tea near our classroom. Rory also baked a cake which we shared with our host family.



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Bryan and Dcs. Keah Payne. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	OR	Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861		40718 Highway E 16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861		Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: Payne-Tanzania

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/payne

Call a contributor care representative: 888-930-4438

888-THE-LCMS • lcms.org • infocenter@lcms.org | 2

Trivia Night



Friday, April 26th, 2024
7:00pm

Doors open at 6:00pm for Table Decorating

Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

7950 Marshall Street
Merrillville, IN 46410

Open to All Ages

\$100/table of up to 10 participants
Individual reservations \$15

To sign up call the office at (219) 769-5376
or visit

<https://tmlctrivia.eventbrite.com>



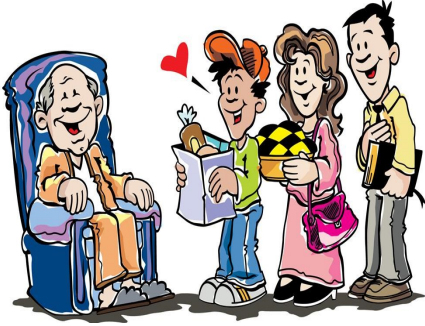
Bring Your Own Food; No Outside Beverages Allowed

Limited CASH Bar available

All proceeds to benefit TMLC Youth Group

*Prizes for Winning Table, Best Decade Dress (guy & gal),
Best Table Decorations*

Friends in the Faith



Adventure awaits you this summer at Camp Lutherhaven! Race your friends in a kayak, make a craft out of things found in nature, or gaze up at the starry night sky. There are so many activities at Camp Lutherhaven the only question is 'What one will I try today?' There are programs for all ages: youth programs for K-12, family programs, and Servant Events for grades 8-12. Camp has something for everyone!

Register online today at www.lutherhaven.org or call for more information at 260.636.7101.



Vacation Bible School

We are looking for a Team, two or more, to lead and facilitate Vacation Bible School. Dates are flexible as we are using the church building and not FLC. Volunteers are ready willing and able to help the event be successful. Prayerfully consider this and contact Cara Clausing or Connie Hoernig.

Please complete the 2024 Volunteer Form and return to Cara, or Connie.

Or go online at <https://forms.gle/8URNG2B5eoh8fhDJ7>.

Please complete by April 7th.

SISTERS IN CHRIST

April 12th

Bunco!

6:00 PM

Join us for a fun EVENING of fellowship and Bunco.

Everyone is Invited!

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Along with a small Bunco Prize (wrapped). Game starts at 6:00 PM in the church basement. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you are attending. *Thank you!*

April 15th

SIC Meeting at Church

6:30 PM

We will be packing the Chemo Bags. Thank you to all who have contributed to our outreach.

May 20th

Dinner

6:00 PM

Asparagus in Merrillville
(asparagusrestaurant.com)

June

Shipshewana Day Trip

Date to be Determined



Why does the Sunday Mass always open with confession of sins and absolution?

And what is the difference between corporate and private confession and absolution?

Actually, the Mass doesn't "open" until *after* the confession and absolution. The corporate confession and absolution then given by the pastor are preparatory to the Mass itself, which opens after the absolution, with the Introit. Corporate confession, whose technical term is the *Confiteor* (Latin for "I confess"), is usually introduced by an opening hymn of invocation, which calls upon God, and then the Invocation itself ("In the name of the Father," etc.). This *corporate* confession and absolution is actually an adaptation of the *individual* confession and absolution, which at one time was the norm. Christian people would routinely go to the church to confess their sins *privately* before the pastor, and receive private absolution. This practice has sometimes been called "the forgotten Sacrament" because it fell into disuse in much of Lutheranism. Though corporate confession to some degree replaced it, corporate confession does not provide an opportunity for the penitent sinner to confess in particular those sins which have been grieving to his conscience, as the Catechism teaches. The Catechism speaks highly of this blessed gift, for its abiding comfort for the Christian and his tormented conscience. In recent years there have been

attempts to recover the practice of private confession. Some new hymnals provide brief liturgical formats for individual (or private) confession.

-Reprinted with permission from Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy by Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr.

Repristination Press Malone, Texas

Follow up: If you would ever like to schedule a time for private confession and absolution, I am more than willing to hear your confession and absolve you of your sins as my Lord has commanded me to do (John 20:23). These sins are then forgotten just as our Father in heaven remembers these sins no more (Hebrews 8:12). As the article states, we do have a brief service for private confession and absolution within our Synodical hymnals, the Lutheran Service Book.

You've been invited

LWML Prayer Breakfast: *Grace, Mercy, Peace*

Saturday April 6th, 2024 at the Fellowship Hall Trinity Lutheran School Hobart, IN

Time: 9 am -11 am

Enjoy food 9 am – 10 am with Spiritual food 10 am – 11 am

LWML Hammond Zone – Spring Prayer Breakfast at Trinity Lowell

April 17 at 9:00-9:30 AM Registration, Prayer service at 10:00 AM

Please RSVP by April 14th to Susan 844-6176 or Trinity Office 696-9338

See Flyer in the Narthex for more details

Interested in helping with an Outreach Event for FoodBank of Northwest Indiana

Contact Dr. Brian E. Thompson, 219-616-1655, betdvm@comcast.net

APRIL

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1st | Aubrey Jackson | 14th | Karson Healy |
| 2nd | Linda Bandy | 17th | Brenda Harder |
| | Phyllis Knutson | 18th | Jordyn Nygaard |
| 5th | Doug Wainwright | | Tommy Pavell |
| 6th | Brandon Anderson | | Cole Thompson |
| 8th | Bennett Collum | 19th | Heath Zitek |
| 10th | Michele Wadkins | 20th | Kari Jo Sopko |
| 12th | Ariel Farrar | 21st | Madeline Groff |
| | Bill Harder | | Blake Healy |
| 13th | Camila Rayner | 23rd | Cole Hurst |
| | | 29th | Jane Langbehn |

APRIL

Baptisms

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1st | Chris Clausing |
| | Debbie Gloudeman |
| | Brianne Miller |
| | Kira Ragan |
| 2nd | Lena Fussell |
| 8th | Lynette Cieslak |
| 9th | Jacob Stewarts |
| 10th | Isabella Balbosa |
| | Jeff Cieslak |
| 11th | Katie Hurst |
| | Rachel Wadkins |
| 13th | Olivia Louthan |
| 15th | Suzanne Hale |
| 17th | Sean Harder |
| 20th | Natalie Harty |
| 21st | Ross Haller |
| | Larry Polster |

APRIL

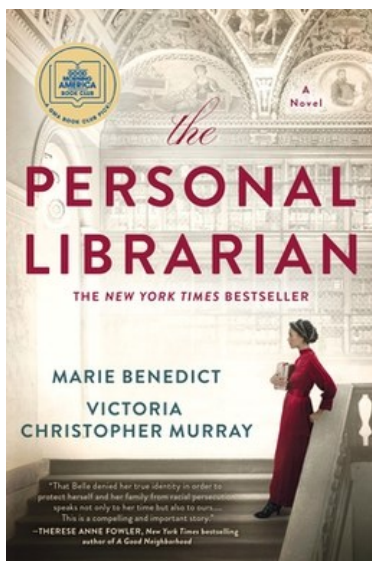
Anniversaries

- 25 years** for Douglas & Alicia Poulston on April 10th
49 years for Don & Gail Watts on April 12th
21 years for Greg & Debbie Kamplain on April 13th
36 years for Larry & Sheryl Polster on April 16th
36 years for Chris & Jodi Roark on April 16th
5 years for Frank and Courtney Walsko on April 27th

Was your birthday missing or have you been married for 35 years and not 25.

If you notice an error in this listing then please contact the church at 219-769-5376 to update your church record.

Thank you.



Book Club

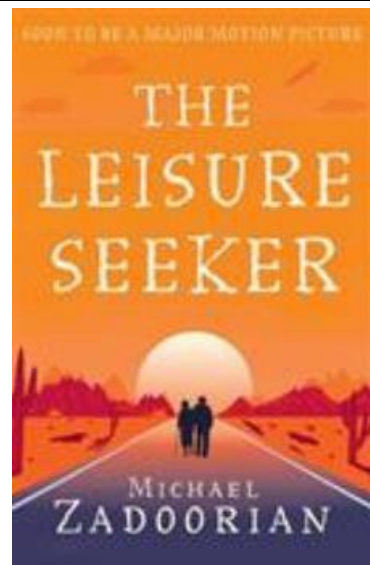
April 15

The Personal Librarian
 By Marie Benedict
 Victoria Christopher Murray

May 21

The Leisure Seeker
 By Michael Zadoorian

In the Conference Room at **Noon**
 Bring a Lunch!





Charlotte Rose Groff, born July 29, 2023,
daughter of Zachary & Armanda Groff
was received into the family of God on March 17, 2024
through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
May all the gifts of faith bless her life in the years ahead.

THANK YOU!

We are Blessed
with a Generous Church Family

- ♥ Thank you to the Outreach Committee for hosting Soup Supper during Lent.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who provided an item during the Lenten Meal.
- ♥ Thank you to Sisters in Christ for hosting and supplying food for the Easter Breakfast.
- ♥ Thank you to the congregation that brought in food for the Easter Breakfast.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Lots of FUN!
- ♥ Thank you to our Thrivent Members for Donating your Choice Dollars from 2023.
- ♥ Thank you to Living for Christ for hosting and feeding those in need at the Feed the Flock meal.



- ♥ Thanks for those who supplied the food for Feed the Flock meal.
- ♥ Thanks to SIC for the donations for the Chemo Bag Care Kits

THANKS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:00 PM Confirmation <i>FLC Event</i>	4 6:00 PM Board Meeting	5 <i>FLC Event</i>	6 <i>FLC Event</i>
7 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 PM Finance Meeting 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes 11:00 AM Outreach Meeting	8 <i>FLC Event</i>	9 9:00 AM Pastors Winkle 6:00 PM Church Council	10 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:00 PM Board of Ed 6:30 PM Choir	11	12 6:00 PM BUNCO	13 <i>FLC Event</i>
14 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes	15 6:30 PM Sister in Christ <i>FLC Event</i>	16 12:00 PM Book Club	17 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir	18 9:00 AM Bible Study	19	20 <i>FLC Event</i>
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes	22 6:30 PM SAI Meeting <i>FLC Event</i>	23 10:00 AM May Newsletter & Calendar Deadline	24 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 PM Hand Bells 6:30 PM Choir	25 9:00 AM Bible Study	26 7:00 PM Trivia Night In the FLC	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes	29 <i>FLC Event</i>	30	April 2024			