

2 approaches to Easter

‘**T**hen Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He



STEPHEN
BLENKUSH

bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.” – John 20:3-10

John (the other disciple) and Peter represent for me two different Easter Sunday experiences.

John is the person who celebrates on Easter Sunday. He is the one for whom faith comes easy. He believes without seeing. He runs the fastest because he is the least encumbered. His burden is light.

Peter, on the other hand, is the one who comes with a heavy heart to Easter Sunday worship. He carried the burden of having betrayed a loved one. The prospect of seeing Jesus is mixed for Peter. What will he say to me? What will I say to him?

Peter, unfortunately, does not hang around the tomb long enough for the miracle to happen. Unlike Marty Magdalen, who stays behind to grieve and is met by Jesus. Peter must wait for Easter to happen to him.

All of us come to Easter Sunday with different life experiences and life realities. Some of us are broken like Mary and wonder if we’ll ever be whole again. Some of us are ashamed of ourselves like Peter and wonder if God’s forgiveness

can ever reach our betrayal. Some of us are faithful like John and simply celebrate the love of God.

The Christian faith is all about new life, new birth, second chances and 70 second chances. The Christian faith is about love, forgiveness, reconciliation. It’s about waging war against the powers of brokenness with the power of self-sacrificing love.

It’s about God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. For Peter and John, and for us, Easter means that Christ is risen in them and they will never be the same again.

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, we come to this new day still thinking about Easter Sunday morning and your risen presence in our midst. Love us, heal us, forgive us and lead us. Bring the newness of your life to bear in us, that we might bear the newness of life into the world around us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Stephen Blenkush is pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Pequot Lakes.

CARD GAMES

500 SCORES

1 p.m. Tuesdays
Pine River American Legion

Tuesday, April 19

► Ernie Burch 4210, Bud Johnson 3690, Don Krut 3550, Bill Ellis 3370. Ron Kriewald won the door prize.

SENIOR MEALS

PINE RIVER — The Senior Nutrition Program offers a nutritionally balanced meal for all people and is open again for in-person dining. Masks are no longer mandatory. Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday at the Heartland Apartments, 445 Snell Ave., in Pine River. The suggested voluntary donation is \$5 per meal for those over 60 and \$8.50 for those under 60. To make a reservation, call 218-587-2921. Menus are subject to change. Meals are served with low-fat milk.

May 2-6

- **Monday:** Orange chicken, brown rice, Oriental vegetables, mandarin oranges, dessert.
- **Tuesday:** Kitchen closed for out-of-town cooks’ meeting.
- **Wednesday:** Ham and turkey, salad, fresh orange, breadstick, dessert.
- **Thursday:** Pepper steak or liver, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots, dinner roll with margarine, dessert.
- **Friday:** Fish patty with tartar sauce and a bun, cheesy hashbrowns, baked beans, dessert.

BRIDGE SCORES

1 p.m. Tuesdays
Ideal Town Hall

Tuesday, April 19

► Duplicate: Chris Brown and Diana Brown 55.50, Tom McGrath and Helen McGrath 51.50, Enga Wodziak and Mary Kay Kendall 43.50.

BRIEF

Grant funds available for legal services for Cass County seniors

CASS COUNTY — The St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid received a grant of Older Americans Act funds from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging to provide legal services for seniors who live in Cass County.

The funds will be used to provide legal advice, counseling and representation in court and administrative hearings. There is no cost for these services.

Cass County residents age 60 and older can get help with legal problems involving Medicare; Social Security; eviction or other housing problems; public benefits, such as medical assistance, food support and fuel assistance; family law issues, including domestic abuse and income maintenance; nursing home problems; home care services; powers of attorney; health care directives; and debt collection.

No help is provided for criminal matters, wills, estate planning or real estate transactions.

Seniors can call the St. Cloud office of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid toll free at 1-888-360-2889 for help scheduling an appointment by phone, virtually or in person.

There are Legal Kiosks in communities across Cass County to meet with representatives. The kiosks let participants do video meetings and remote court hearings. Legal Aid can also bring the Justice Bus to an area to meet with individuals.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid accepts contributions for the legal services, but contributions are not required to receive legal help.

Crosslake Cares Senior Days & Senior Expo is this weekend

CROSSLAKE — Crosslake Cares will host its annual Senior Days & Senior Expo April 29-May 1 at Crosslake Lutheran Church.

All weekend there will be restaurant deals in town. The expo on Saturday will feature prizes and giveaways, free coffee and pastries and exhibitors until noon. Scheduled events include:

Friday, April 29

► **10-11:30 a.m.:** Senior technology presentation at Crosslake Lutheran Church. Participants will learn computer and internet basics from knowledgeable network technicians Justin Hanson and Dylan Raph. Instruction will also include cyber security. Participants may bring a laptop, tablet or cell phone if they have questions. Additional questions may be directed to Krystin Peterson at 218-763-8118 or krystin@emilytel.com.

► **2-3:30 p.m.:** Senior travel presentation at Crosslake Lutheran Church. This presentation will introduce the “Senior Going Places” program. Starting May 26, there will be opportunities for tours and lunch to places within an hour of Crosslake. Information on other domestic and abroad trips will also be available. Questions may be directed to Sandy Anderson at 651-587-3821 or mentor471@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 30

► **8 a.m.:** Senior 3K walk. This free event starts at The Log Church on County Road 66 at 8 a.m. Registrants should arrive by 7:45 p.m. Water will be provided. There will be a police escort. T-shirts will be available. Questions may be directed to Donna Keiffer at 218-821-1158.

► **9-9:15 a.m.:** Dr. Peter Henry, chief medical officer at Essentia Health-St. Joseph’s Medical Center

and clinics, will discuss “Proactive health care as you age.”

► **10-10:15:** Dr. Lauren Hurt, board certified specialist in neurological physical therapy and owner of It Matters Neurologic Rehabilitation, will discuss “How to prevent, improve or slow the onset of fatigue, dizziness and lost of strength and balance.”

► **12:15 p.m.:** Retired journalist and news anchor Don Shelby will present the keynote address.

► **1:30-4 p.m.:** Senior pickleball will be held at a location to be announced at the expo and at crosslakecares.org. This event is free. There will be demonstration games and lessons to learn how to play. Players will be available to explain rules and scoring. The event will be at the outdoor courts at the Crosslake Community Center or indoors at Crosslake Community School.

► **5:30-10 p.m.:** Senior Prom at Manhattan Beach Lodge. Tickets are \$29 each, which covers a three-course meal and dancing. There will be a cash bar and appetizers until 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow and dancing from 8-10 p.m.

Sunday, May 1

► **All day:** Senior golf at Crosswoods Golf Course, including senior specials during the expo weekend. There will be a short game golf clinic with professionals at 1 p.m. at Crosswoods Golf with Tim Trott and Savannah Smith for \$10. For more information, call 218-692-4653 for tee times, 218-820-0789 or crosswoods@crosslake.net.

► **11 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Senior mini golf at Whistling Wolf Mini Golf, featuring specials for seniors. Call 218-692-4653 for more information.

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