

“For This Cause Came I Into The World”

These words, spoken by Jesus, are echoed and reechoed from pulpits throughout the world, and yet today are commonly rejected and dismissed by the stony, unrepentant, hearts of men as merely rhetorical, mythical, and without personal significance or meaning. It is for this very reason the world becomes more chaotic with each passing day. Unbelief rules and controls men’s lives. God’s Word, which is truth, is even banished in some areas of our society and we witness the sad results.

The world, since the fall of Adam, has been plagued with sin and unbelief. The Apostle Paul writes, **“for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Rom. 3:23** We read in the 6th chapter of this same epistle how dreadful the consequences of sin truly are when in the 23rd verse the Apostle writes, **“For the wages of sin is death;”** Not only did sin bring mortality unto man, but even worse, it brings eternal separation from God to those who do not repent and believe the Gospel. However the Apostle continues, **“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** In these words we find God’s plan for the salvation of all who believe according to the scriptures and herein lies God’s plan for the salvation of our undying souls and the true meaning of Easter. Jesus said, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17.** The Lord Jesus still testifies today that men need not perish in their sins, **“ --for this cause came I into the world --” John 18:37** There is grace for the repentant sinner.

If there would be even one reader of these words of Jesus today, who does not comprehend their meaning, pray, dear friend, pray that God, our dear Heavenly Father, would reveal them unto you. Jesus is telling you that it was for you and all of mankind that he came into this world. He came to bring life and salvation to all who would believe in his redemptive work at Calvary as the scriptures teach. He willingly took upon himself your sins and mine and the sins of the whole world. He willingly suffered in Gethsemane’s garden beneath the burden of our sins, and willingly allowed himself to be nailed to the cross at Calvary. There he died so you and I might live and on that first Easter morning he arose victoriously from the tomb, over death, hell, and the power of the Devil. In his victory, all who believe their sins forgiven in his name and precious blood of reconciliation have the hope of eternal life according to his faithful promise. Rom. 3:19-31

And you, dear fellow traveler, who must journey here by faith; be reminded with me today of those sad and yet wonderful events which took place on that first Good Friday and Easter. Jesus loved us so much that while we were yet sinners, alienated from God by unbelief, took upon himself our sins. Our sin debt of ten thousand talents, which we could never hope to repay, was forgiven and we were, by his grace, set free. No longer shackled in the bondage of the proverbial Egypt, no longer relentlessly oppressed by the enemy to

despair, but we were set free. **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36** We have been set free not because we were deserving, not because we merited it or because we had earned the right through anything we had done or not done but dear friend, it was because of God’s unsearchable love and grace for you and me.

Jesus once said to his disciples, **“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.” John 15:16** Think of it dear friend, he has chosen us out of the millions of people in this world to be his own. How humbling a matter this is when we consider how great a love he has for us undeserving souls. “Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span, at Calvary.” May our hearts rejoice again this Easter time and each and every day to know that as our Savior arose victoriously from the grave, so shall we also be raised with him on that last day, according to his word, unto eternal life. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Author and Finisher of your faith and mine. He is coming soon and his reward is with him. To him who has loved us and given himself for us, be all honor and glory forever and ever.

May you have a blessed Easter in Jesus Christ our Lord..
In God’s Peace,

Ken Storm - pastor

April 2	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
April 9	Chad Kuivanen	
April 14	Ken Storm	7pm Good Friday
April 16	Ken Storm	Easter Sunday
April 23	Charles Korhonen	
April 30	Herb Jarvi	

Local Schedule for Guest Ministers Goran Esberg, Markus Grankula

April 18	7pm	Watton
April 19	7pm	Tapiola
April 20	7pm	Chassell
April 21	7pm	Atlantic Mine

Looking Ahead: Tapiola will host guest pastor Ken McLachlan from Toronto, Ontario to speak at our Spring Services on May 5-7.

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 531
Houghton, MI 49931

Winter Schedule: Sunday School/Bible Study 9:45am Church at 11am **Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.**

Contact Information: Ken Storm, Pastor (906)482-3234 Church (906)334-2766
Website: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org>

Location: 17602 N. Lake Ave. Tapiola, MI