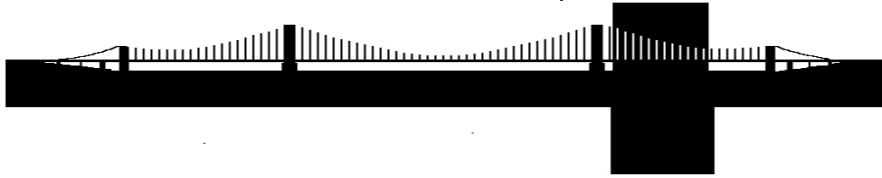


Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

EQUIPPING
THE
SAINTS

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church April 2015

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

March 29 @ 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday w/Communion

April 2 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 3 @ 7:00 pm

Easter Prayer Vigil

April 4 from 9-4

Easter Breakfast

April 5 @ 9:00 am



Easter Service

April 5 @ 10:00 am

Sometimes Life Stinks...

April 2015

...but never as much as the stench of *death!*

In John's gospel (chapter 11) we read the familiar account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus orders the tomb to be opened, the dead man's sister, Martha, warns him: "*Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.*"

Death stinks. Ask anyone who has lost a beloved friend...parent...child...sibling...or spouse.

Sometimes in our haste to get to Easter and the empty tomb, we forget that the *stench of death* is all around us:

- The death of our hopes and dreams...
- The death of a relationship or a career...
- The death of our health or our security...

Sometimes life stinks. Death always stinks!

Our calling, as Christians, is not to hide the stench of death with air fresheners (or spices), with false hopes and dreams and delusions.



Our calling is to bring people to the open tomb, so they might experience for themselves that

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

The stench of death is destroyed! Better still, *death itself is destroyed!* How do you know?

Because the grave could not contain our Lord. Because he promised to be with us forever. How? "*Righteous Father...I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them*" (John 17:25-26).

Yes, sometimes life stinks. We get what we do not deserve, and we lose what we treasure most. Jesus never promised that, because we stick close by his side, we'll never smell the awful stuff of life (or death).

He does say that, because he sticks by our side, we will ultimately experience what he experienced that first Easter morning: *new life...resurrection!*

**Once again we'll tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.
Join us in Holy Week: *Maundy Thursday, April 2; Good Friday, April 3 (7 pm)*
and *Easter Day, April 5 at 10 am.***

Know anyone whose life stinks? This would be a good time to invite them to worship with you!

Blessed Easter!

+ Pastor Rich



EASTER CHOIR!

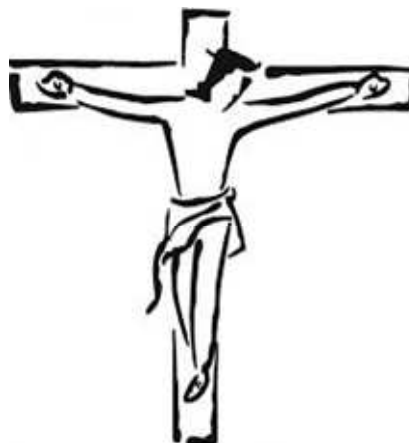
We're thrilled to have an Easter Choir of about 18 voices this year! They've been rehearsing after the mid-week Lenten services, and will sing twice on Easter morning.

Thanks to Deb Wlodarski for selecting music and rehearsing with our excited singers!

We also appreciate the talents of Kevin Wlodarski on guitar in our worship!

HOLY WEEK TRADITIONS...

Holy Week is considered the *holiest* week of the Christian year, far surpassing the importance of Christmas. For the first three hundred years of the Christian Church, Christmas was pretty much ignored. Everyone knew that Jesus had been born because Jesus had died on the cross...and he couldn't have died unless he was a real person, born like the rest of us!



The real power of our faith lies in the death and resurrection of Jesus...and the account of his suffering, death and resurrection is the focal point of our **Holy Week** worship practices.

It begins with **Palm Sunday** (also known as **Passion Sunday**), when Christians mark the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die. Historically, we retell the Passion story on this day, as a means by which we prepare ourselves for powerful worship on **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**. (On Wednesday in Holy Week there is no mid-week service).

On **Maundy** (from Latin mandamus, 'command') **Thursday**, the church recalls the *Last Supper* Jesus ate with his disciples, when he gave them a 'new commandment,' that they love one another as he loved them. Traditionally many churches reenact a foot-washing ceremony this day, inspired by Jesus humbly washing the feet of his followers. On **Good Friday** we 'watch and pray' as we remember Jesus on the cross. On **Holy Saturday**, remembering Christ in the grave, many Christians set aside time to come to church and pray in silent devotion. Our **Prayer Vigil** is April 4 from 9 – 4 (sign up at church for a half-hour time slot). Finally, **Easter**, the day of the resurrection, marks Christ's victory over sin, death and the grave...our most important festival! Please join us for as many Holy Week services as possible. Don't forget the Easter Breakfast, April 5 at 9 am!



**New 5-Week Adult Faith Forum
Course Begins April 12, 9 am!
We Need to Talk...**

Right after Easter, there's a brand new conversation starting on Sunday mornings. It's called **CLAIMED, GATHERED, SENT**, and it's all about what it means to be the church today.

- How do you see God at work in and through our congregation?
- What does God's work mean for our decisions together (especially as we look forward to the transition year ahead of us...)?
- What is God calling the ELCA to be and to do?

Our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is encouraging congregations to have this conversation. What we'll be talking about has implications for us as individuals...for All Saints...and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Session 1 (April 12):	WE ARE CHURCH!	1 Peter 2:9
Session 2 (April 19):	WE ARE LUTHERAN!	Ephesians 2:8
Session 3 (April 26):	WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!	1 Corinthians 12:27
Session 4 (May 3):	WE ARE CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!	Luke 10:27
Session 5 (May 10):	WHAT DIFFERENCE DO WE MAKE?	Acts 1:8

This course is perfect for those who haven't been part of a group Bible study in awhile (or ever!). And of course, we welcome seasoned veterans of our other courses also. Come and see what it's all about!



EASTER SUNDAY, April 5, we'll celebrate the baptism of *Iris Tinsley*, infant daughter of Samantha Byram (daughter of Connie Byram; sister of Debbie Dillon and Mary Byram). Plans are being made also to welcome new adult members of All Saints. If you would like information about membership, please speak with Pastor Rich immediately!



April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29  8:30 Prayer 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 S. S. 10:00 Worship	30 8:30 AA (closed)	31 8:30 AA (open)	1 April Fools Day No Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	2  Service 7:00 PM 8:30 AA (closed)	3  Service 7:00 pm	4  9-4
5  8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:00 Worship	6 8:30 AA (closed)	7 8:30 AA (open)	8 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	9 8:30 AA (closed)	10	11
12 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship Coffee Hour	13 8:30 AA (closed)	14 7:00 Property 8:30 AA (open)	15 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	16 7:00 Council 8:30 AA (closed)	17	18
19 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	20 7:00 S.O.S. 8:30 AA (closed)	21 8:30 AA (open)	22 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	23 8:30 AA (closed)	24	25 9:00 
26 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	27 8:30 AA (closed)	28 8:30 AA (open)	29 11:30 Sassy Saints Lunch at the Black Pearl 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	30 8:30 AA (closed)		

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

READER

April 5 Sue Merkel
April 12 Rick McCann
April 19 Bob Krueger
April 26 Rosa Linda Brown

GREETERS

Dorothy Henderson
Rick & Becky McCann
Pat Toepfer
Rosa Linda, Devyne & Devotion

COMMUNION PREP/ASSISTANT

April 5 Ted & Julie Beitelschees
April 12 Gretchen Schultz & Pam Hershberger
April 19 Roger & Lynda Meyer
April 26 Bill & Judy Reber

ALTAR

APRIL Gretchen Schultz

COUNTERS

April 5 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker
April 12 Sue Merkel & Judy Reber
April 19 Rose Thomson & Pat Toepfer
April 26 Sue Merkel & Janet Caskey

OFFERING

April 5 Julie Beitelschees
April 12 Norm Merkel
April 19 Rose Thomson
April 26 Judy Reber

USHERS

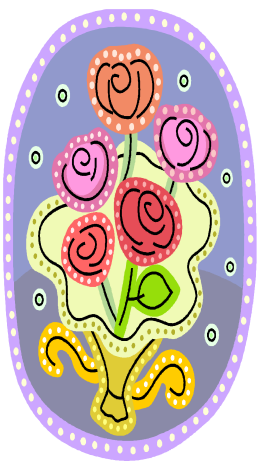
April 5 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch
April 12 Bob Krueger, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
April 19 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
April 26 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch



- 4/4 Judy Reber
- 4/11 Mary Lou Houle
- 4/13 Connie Byram
- 4/22 Kathryn Strand
- 4/26 Darlene Stokes
- 4/29 Sue Merkel
- 4/30 Bev Rose

If we've missed your Birthday or Anniversary this month, please notify the office so we can correct our records.

April Altar Flowers



- 5** Bill Reber
- 12** Open
- 19** Mary Lou Houle
- 26** Pat Toepfer

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April

