



April 2025  
Newsletter

Rooted in God's Word  
Growing in Christ's Love  
Branching Out to Serve  
Bearing Fruits of Faith

St. John Amelith Lutheran Church and School  
1664 Amelith Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-686-0176  
[www.amelith.org](http://www.amelith.org)  
Pastor Jerry Gauthier



## From The Pastor's Desk

*"...But God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead" (Acts 10:40-41 ESV)*

Soon in our waiting we will enter the Easter season. The world will be left behind. While all can follow that road to the cross, only believers hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He did not only rise bodily from the dead, but appeared to His disciples. It was a special bond shared with them for forty days before His ascension. This was especially necessary and important for the apostles. Those chosen by the Lord would be sent out before His Church. Their task to make disciples of all nations would begin in Jerusalem. These men experienced firsthand the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He was fully man as they knew Him, but also fully God sent to save sinners. Their words of the New Testament scriptures still speak today witnessing to the Old Testament fulfilled by the Gospel. It is the power of the Holy Spirit to give any faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Yet, if God wants to save all people why did He reveal the resurrection of His Son to more than His followers? The Bible hides nothing and is bold to the fact that Jesus appeared only to those as Acts states, "who had been chosen by God as witnesses." Is this a sign of weakness in the scriptures or really strength? St. Mark noted Jesus saying, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead" (Luke 16:31). The same can be said about the Holy Apostles who were sent and authorized by Jesus. They made it known saying, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete" (1 John 1:3).



How quickly reason and emotions imagine if only the risen Jesus was made known it would solve the denial and skepticism! A day and time waits for this final glory, but it was at His crucifixion Jesus Christ said those judging Him, "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:62). The Father in heaven does not see our frustrations the same way since sending His Son satisfied all judgment and salvation. The greater glory was not with resurrection for that is what you should expect if Jesus is truly God. He even said His resurrection would be like that of Jonah in the fish to be finally spat out (Matthew 12:40). The Father has made His crucified Son the center of glory for the entire world to see His undying love. St Paul knows their witness and Word is not the problem stating, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 4:3).

Join us at St. John not only for Easter, but to behold the good news of Holy Week. We as the body of Christ are to behold the head and His faithfulness to save. This triumphant process begins on Palm Sunday and it helps that Confirmation Day is also on this Sunday. Baptized youth will make vows to follow the Lord and confess Him in life even as He goes to the cross. The resurrection has become the confirmation to believe Jesus suffering and death count. By His resurrection we have a feast of victory at the Lord's Supper to partake of God's sacrificial love. As Savior and Lord Jesus is present before His Church to eat and drink with Him in His glory. Forgiveness, life, and salvation comes as promised by His Word. Like the Apostles who saw the risen Jesus, the sacramental Word is the witness that Jesus lives and reigns to all eternity. What we receive from Him is necessary and important even to make you His witnesses.

Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our king!

*Pastor Gauthier*



Dear Cardinal Families,

We have ended the third quarter now and are heading into spring break. Spring is this lovely time where we pass the endurance of the winter cold and snow and begin to see life come anew. I have a hydrangea plant in my office and in the spring is when they begin to grow and show new life. When looking at this it brings in that awe and wonder of the beauty of God's creation. And part of that loving creation is the families we see come into our school each day.

As we end the third quarter it is much more than report cards going home. It is to look at how our students have grown in the time they have been here. It is important for us to step back and examine how student growth and success is more than just being able to solve  $2x-5=27$ . It is how they communicate and interact with each other. Building solid relationships with their fellow scholars around them. If we look at Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: This passage emphasizes the importance of close relationships, stating, "Two are better than one...if they fall, one will lift up his companion". Our teachers along with myself see that with a lot of our students.

As we spring forward into this fourth and final quarter of the school year the students will be busy with many different opportunities that we have at the school. April will have opportunities to have students be involved in our worship services, chili cook-off, and much more. I know March reading month has ended and I thank those who have come to read to our children but please continue to encourage your child, grand child, niece, nephew, and any child you know to continue to read daily. For that newness of life reading scripture can assist with that.

Best,  
Jonathan P. Korpi  
Principal

# DIDACHE

JOHN T. PLESS

Didache Class will start  
May 7. Contact Pastor or  
the office by April 25 if  
you would like to join  
the class.

## AMELITH ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP

St. John Amelith Board of Ed is working towards offering "Amelith Adventure Summer Camp"! We are still in the planning stages with the goal to share God's word and bring more children to Amelith. It would offer early and after care for parents working and some fun for the children while learning God's word. We need your help! We could use some volunteer help to make it possible to provide this at an affordable cost to the parents. Please reach out to the school office if you would like more information and are willing to help us out. More information to come! The potential start date would be June 16th and run through August 15. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help God's children! Board of Ed



# Shining the Light of Christ in Family, Church, and State

Phil Rigdon  
March 17, 2025

*This blog is the second of a series based on topics treated by Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa in his book series on faith and culture.*



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your

Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

## Agape Love: Serving Others

Dr. Espinosa writes regarding *agape* love: “This highest and greatest love serves the other *even when* we don’t want to.” *Agape* is one of three Greek words describing love. The other two are *philos*, love between friends, and *eros*, romantic or sexual love. *Agape* love is the highest and greatest of loves because it centralizes the wellbeing of others. It is self-sacrificing and nonreciprocal. Most importantly, *agape* love is what we see in Christ, specifically at the cross. We did not deserve Jesus’ self-sacrifice for our sins, yet our Lord gave anyway.

Espinosa reminds the reader that Christians demonstrate *agape* love to their neighbor within the context of giving such love to God first. In other words, we *agape* love our neighbor because we *agape* love God. Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment” (Matthew 22:37–38).

## Challenges and Questions with Christian Agape Love

One may argue why, if God is concerned about our neighbors, He wouldn’t want Christians to hold loving their neighbor above all else. I propose two reasons. First, in giving our Lord *agape* love first, we honor Him and recognize His supremacy. This is a First Command-

ment issue: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). Second, it is in loving the Lord first that we are best equipped to attend to our neighbor’s needs. As we hold God’s Word above all other sources of wisdom, we learn how best to care for our neighbors.

God teaches us to love as He loves. As we receive the Lord’s Holy Spirit in Baptism, He empowers us to seek the good of the other, even at our own expense.

The challenge with *agape* love is the sinful nature. We look back to the Garden of Eden, where we find Adam and Eve, initially unblemished by sin. The first man and woman loved each other with *agape* love, and did so naturally. God built them to do so, and they did so after first showing *agape* love to their Creator. Adam and Eve then sinned for the first time by doing the exact opposite of *agape* love; they disobeyed God by seeking their own greater wisdom, power, and godship. Notice the inversion: Adam and Eve *agape*-loved each other because they *agape*-loved God first. But when they put themselves first, they failed to *agape*-love God, and consequently failed to *agape*-love each other. Recall what happened after the fall when the Lord confronted them: Adam blamed Eve, and then blamed God by implication. Eve blamed the serpent. Not a great deal of *agape* love there!

## Agape Love in the Three Estates

Dr. Espinosa writes about *agape* love in three estates: family, church, and state. He writes, “Family is the heart of the culture, showing its *character*.” Families may only possess a Christian character when they are connected to the means of grace found in the church. The author writes, “Church is the soul of the culture, serving as a *conscience* and guide for knowing what is consistent with its Creator and what is not.” The family, then, benefits when the state is “*protecting* and practicing what is at the culture’s core.” In other words, the state creates a context in which the family and church can thrive. The church brings Christ to the family through the Word and Sacrament. The family, empowered by the Sacraments, lives out the Word in the home and community. The state, composed of people originating in the family, facilitates the family and church.

Ideally, *agape* love is shown in all three estates,



first to God and then to the neighbor. When this happens, all three function well in harmony with one another. As noted above, however, the sinful nature disrupts this.

### **Selfishness in Sin Hurting Agape Love**

A selfish heart is the opposite of *agape* love. It is the father who spends too little time on his wife and children, most especially failing to serve them as the spiritual leader of the family. It is the wife who is overly concerned with having her way in the direction of the family, failing to serve her husband and submit to him. It is the children who are disobedient to parents and unwilling to share with one another. The family's primary neglect is of the means of grace found in the church. This fault falls most heavily on the father.

Selfishness in the church manifests itself in two primary ways. The second flows from the first. To show *agape* love to the family and state, the church first does so to God. The church does this by remaining faithful to God's Word, regardless of the reaction from the family or state. When churches are too concerned over relevance to the family or consequences from state, they offer a polluted or diluted version of God's Word, seeking their own preservation. The effect is a malnourished family and thereby a corrupt state. Selfishness in the state is manifest in neglect of the family and overreach against the church. The task of the state is to protect the family, allowing it to do its job of raising children fed on the means of grace. The state then also seeks to subvert the church by muting its message and curtailing its practice. In essence, the state seeks to obliterate the church in order to replace it with itself. In this way, the state endeavors to supplant God, harkening back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Learn more about what it means to live in these three estates and what you can do to serve God in them by reading *Faith That Shines in the Culture*.

Source: [blog.cph.org/read/shining-the-light-of-christ-in-family-church-and-state](http://blog.cph.org/read/shining-the-light-of-christ-in-family-church-and-state)

## **Stewardship Essentials: Repetition**

March 10, 2025 / Articles, Ministry Features / By Nathan Meador

A seminary professor once quipped to a group of soon-to-be pastors just before Call Day:

"Congratulations, brothers. You are about to graduate and become pastors. You will likely get two weeks of vacation your first year. This means that for 50 weeks in that year you will get to say the same thing, in new and creative ways."

Even though this professor was talking about proclaiming Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins every single Sunday, what he said also applies to the whole counsel of God, including Christian stewardship.

But this is the mistake so many pastors and steward leaders make every year. They relegate the teaching of stewardship to those weeks just before the creation of the congregational budget, or only begin teaching stewardship when the financial resources of the congregation are beginning to wear thin. This situation is the result of a truncated and impoverished view of stewardship. Instead, how should we teach stewardship?

**Stewardship begins in our baptismal identity in Christ**

The identity of the Christian steward is far more complex than any giving chart or commitment card. When we relegate stewardship to time, talents and treasure, though these are neat compartments, they obscure a much larger truth. For both the individual and the congregation, the identity and vocation of the steward is at the very heart of the Gospel.

No pastor worth their salt would ever balk at reminding those entrusted to his care that they are baptized. From the structure and flow of the liturgy to preaching through the lectionary, the Divine Service is a weekly reminder that those gathered around Word and Sacrament are baptized.

This baptismal identity is not one God's people claimed for themselves. It is one that has been placed on them. The baptized have put on Christ. They are not their own. They have been bought with a price. The currency of that purchase is not gold or silver, but the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**SJA Stewardship Meeting**

**April 28 @11am**

**All are welcome!**



Repeat it often: Be who Christ redeemed you to be

This is a message that is repeated in new and creative ways every week in orthodox Lutheran preaching and teaching.

This repetition is essential for two reasons. One, it is a call to repentance. Even the most faithful saint daily and often forgets that they do not belong to themselves. They claim ownership of what is really a trust from God. In the process, they are wallowing in idolatry that can and will separate them from the mercy of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Second, weekly repetition is necessary because it is often forgotten that what is lost and then restored by grace in one's baptismal identity is also a call to stewardship. Stewardship needs to be taught weekly since we forget it daily!

But this repetition is not about being the leech of Proverbs 30, demanding "Give, give" (Prov. 30:15). This weekly repetitive call to Christian stewardship is *be*!

*Be* who the Lord has made and redeemed you to be. This is a lesson that cannot be taught too much.

Is there a financial component to that? Of course there is! But it is so much more. Teaching stewardship as identity is the weekly call to serve the Lord by serving the neighbor. Because of sinful flesh that is turned in on itself, the sinner-steward often forgets their identity. Then, without fail, this forgotten identity leads to failed and sinful activity.

For this reason, the steward leader needs to strive for repetition in stewardship formation. The lectionary is a great tool in this. Every week, the assigned readings allow for, and even demand, a treatment from the perspective of the Christian steward. Managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes is what the individual steward is called to do every day of their life. Repetition teaches this.

Steward leader: do not be afraid to be repetitive. Parents, teachers, and even God Himself repeat things so that the child, student and steward may learn. These lessons are learned by repeated exposure to the Gospel. This is done 52 weeks a year. And in the process stewards learn. They learn who they are. They learn what they are

called to do. And they grow to the glory of God and the benefit of their neighbor.

*LCMS Stewardship ministry features may be reprinted with acknowledgment given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

## Obituary: Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier, former LCMS vice-president

[reporter.lcms.org/2025/obituary-rev-dr-paul-l-maier-former-lcms-vice-president](https://reporter.lcms.org/2025/obituary-rev-dr-paul-l-maier-former-lcms-vice-president)

March 3, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier, noted author and Luther scholar who also served many years on the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), died on Feb. 27. He was 94.

Maier was born in St. Louis on May 31, 1930, to the Rev. Dr. Walter A. and Hulda (Eickhoff) Maier. He and his brother, the Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier II, spent much of their childhood on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), where their father was a professor.

Paul Maier married Joan M. Ludtke in 1967. He earned a Master of Arts from Harvard University (1954), a Master of Divinity from CSL (1955), and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Basel, Switzerland (1957), where he was the first American to graduate summa cum laude. He also received three honorary doctorates — from CSL (1995); Concordia University Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich. (2000); and Concordia University Irvine, Irvine, Calif. (2007).

Maier served on the faculty of Western Michigan University (WMU), Kalamazoo, for 52 years, including serving as campus chaplain for 39 of those years. At the time of his retirement, he had served longer than any other WMU professor. He served as a member of the LCMS Praesidium — fourth vice-president (2001–2004), second vice-president (2004–2010) and third vice-president (2010–2013) — as well as on the boards of the Concordia University System (1989–2001) and CSL (2001–2010).

He was the author of a variety of historical fiction and nonfiction books, including a #1 national best-seller in religious fiction, *A Skeleton in God's Closet* (1993). His first book, *A Man Spoke, A World Listened* (1963), was a biography of his father, the founding speaker of the radio program, "The Lutheran Hour." Maier also wrote several children's books, including *The Very First Christmas* (1999); *The Very First Easter* (2000); and *The Very First Christians* (2001).

Maier received numerous awards, including the "Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award" (2018); the Gold Medallion Book Award (1999); a citation from the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters (1985); "Professor of the Year" from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (1984); "Distinguished Faculty Scholar" from WMU (1981); and the "Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence," also from WMU (1974). He was widely known as a Luther scholar and a historian with expertise in the Early Church and the



life of Jesus. He lectured extensively; appeared frequently in national radio, television and newspaper interviews; and wrote more than 200 scholarly articles. He was a frequent speaker at Camp Arcadia, Arcadia, Mich.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison reflected on Maier's service to the church: "Paul lived a remarkable life. He was a blessing to the LCMS and well beyond. His books defending the historicity of the biblical witness to Christ and the Early Church helped give us confidence and boldness to preach Christ. His novels intrigued, delighted and educated us about Christ and His church. It was my pleasure to spend years with him as he served on the Praesidium of the Synod. Christ is risen!"

Maier is survived by four daughters — Laura (Brett) Alexander, Julie Maier, Krista (Zach) Klepach and Katie (Brad Toepper) Maier-Toepper; 10 grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Leah Maier; nephews Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III and Rev. Dr. David PE Maier; and great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place Thursday, March 13, 4–6:30 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 2122 Bronson Blvd., Kalamazoo, Mich., with a funeral the next morning, March 14, at 11 a.m., also at Zion. Clergy are invited to robe and process. Additional visitation will be held at the church beginning at 10 a.m. before the service and again following the service during a light reception. A graveside service for family will follow at 2 p.m. at West Oshtemo Cemetery in Kalamazoo.

Memorials may be made to: The Dr. Paul Maier Endowment for Ancient History—WMU Foundation; Camp Arcadia; and Zion Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo.

## **Obituary: Rev. Dr. Robert T. Kuhn, former LCMS president**

[reporter.lcms.org/2025/obituary-robert-kuhn-lcms-president](http://reporter.lcms.org/2025/obituary-robert-kuhn-lcms-president)

March 18, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Kuhn, former president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the LCMS Central Illinois District (CID), died on March 1. He was 87.

Kuhn was born to Walter and Evelyn (Buss) Kuhn in St. Paul, Minn., on April 5, 1937. He married Judith Mitzenzwey on June 8, 1963. Also in 1963, he received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL). He served as a parish pastor for many years in Illinois. He also served as assistant director of Development (1977–1979) at Concordia Teachers College (now Concordia University Chicago) in River Forest, Ill.; as a circuit counselor (1966–1970); as a member of the CID Board of Directors (1972–1995); and as chairman of the Synod's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee (1993–1998). He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 1988.

In 1985, Kuhn was elected CID president, a position he held until 1995, when he was elected LCMS first vice-president. In 2001, following the death of LCMS Presi-

dent Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry, he became LCMS president, serving for five months until the election of the Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. He served on the Synod's Board of Directors from 2001 to 2013, including nine years as its chairman. In 2013, he was elected LCMS sixth vice-president, a position he held until 2015, when he stepped down for health reasons. He also served on the Synod's Sanctity of Life Task Force, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and as chairman of the Pastoral Colloquy Committee.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said, "Dr. Kuhn's long goodbye to this world has now turned to marvelous greetings in the heavenly mansions prepared for the saints. Bob loved Jesus; was a rock-ribbed Lutheran; loved his church, loved the LCMS and loved people. He graciously assumed the role of Synod president when Dr. Barry died suddenly in Spring 2001, but he had no desire to stand for election that summer. It was time, he said, for him to be with his dear ones, especially his Judy. "The time I spent with him as he served as regional vice-president of Synod was a joy. He was ever gracious and supportive to me, a relatively young LCMS president finding his way in a complex situation. We felt a tremendous loss when Bob decided to resign mid-term for health reasons. These years since have seemed a long Lent of loss and sadness. Now Bob's Easter has come, and ours is not far away. Christ is risen. Alleluia!"

Quoted in a 2015 article in *Reporter* that provided an overview of his 50-plus years of service to the church, Kuhn spoke of "God's phenomenal grace."

"Maturity does not come only in age, but also through ministry," he said. "By the grace of God, that ministry for me has had great variety. ... More decisions and experiences than can be remembered or listed, but each and all of them had a significant role in maturation. From a school boy in a small, rural grade school — afraid to speak in front of the class, to having the privilege of chairing one of the conventions of the Synod. What a journey!"

Judy Kuhn died in 2014. Robert Kuhn's family summarized his legacy on a website dedicated to his memory: "Rev. Kuhn's influence extended far beyond the church walls. His leadership, marked by compassion and a deep reliance on God's grace, nurtured not only the spiritual lives of his congregants but also set a powerful example for future generations of church leaders. He leaves behind a loving family — three children, eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren — who have grown under the guiding light of his faith and wisdom. His commitment to stewarding the gifts God entrusted to him, both in ministry and in family life, will continue to inspire all who knew him."





Orphan Grain Train--Michigan

## News Relay

March 21, 2025

### Orphan Grain Train--Michigan Helps Fund Mission Mules

A total of \$48,000 from caring Christian individuals throughout Michigan enabled Orphan Grain Train--Michigan recently to assist four relief entities helping families hurt by the Hurricane Helene disaster.

One quarter of those funds were given to

### MISSION MULES

Mission Mules is a Christian based relief outreach which carries supplies to suffering families. They use pack mules as well as powered "Kawaski mules" to bring relief into the inaccessible hollows and mountain areas to which access by normal vehicles is impossible. Many roads have been destroyed and bridges in many cases have been swept away.



Mission Mules Relief Work in West Virginia following the hurricane flooding.



Mission Mules manned a relief station in Hendersonville, North Carolina just this week, has arranged food deliveries for Kentucky and West Virginia as well as having a relief station in Black Mountain, NC where food, cleaning supplies, heaters, blankets, and warm weather gear are supplied. It is such efforts our Michigan branch of Orphan Grain Train supports.



Meeting April 22, 2025  
6pm in the Luther Room



## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th  
10:00am

St. John Amelith Lutheran School

1664 Amelith Rd

Bay City, MI 48706 Please Join Us!

Ages : Toddler to 4th grade

Please bring a friend and your own basket or container to collect your eggs. Rain or shine we will hunt for eggs so make sure to dress appropriately!



## St. John Amelith Church and School presents VBS!

Come and Journey with Jesus and us!

June 16 - 20, 2025

9am - 11:30am



St. John Amelith Church and School

1664 Amelith Rd.

Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-0176

[www.amelith.org](http://www.amelith.org)



**Good Friday  
Tre Ore**

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 12-3 P.M.  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
303 RUTH STREET, AUBURN

[GRACEAUBURN.ORG/TRE-ORE](http://GRACEAUBURN.ORG/TRE-ORE)



# Lenten Season 2025

Ash Wednesday Service  
Lenten Supper @ 5:00pm  
March 5, 2025 @ 6:00pm

Mid-week Lent Events  
Wednesdays, March 12-April 9  
Lenten Supper @ 5:00pm  
Evening Prayer Service @ 6:00 pm

Confirmation Examination Night  
April 3 @ 6:00pm

Palm Sunday Divine Service April 13 @ 9:30am  
Confirmation Sunday

Maunday Thursday Service April 17 @ 6:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 18 @ 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Divine Service @ 6:30 am

Easter Divine Service April 20 @ 9:30 am

## Lenten Suppers Schedule

April 2nd---Board of Ed (Pasta dinner)

April 9th---Altar Guild (Hot Dogs)

The Doxology Seminar has been  
re-scheduled for  
November 1, 2025.

If you have already registered,  
you are all set for the date in  
November! There will be more  
information coming in the next  
few months!

The Board of Ed is looking for your story! If you or someone you know has a story to tell about your experience at Amelith, we want to hear it! The Board is working with a marketing group to put together a campaign to market the school and the experiences to be had to try and help the school grow.

Some things we want to hear about from  
you or your kids/family:

Why Amelith?

Influential Staff Experiences

Curriculum Favorites

School Extracurricular Fun

What did your Amelith education do for  
you?





# Alleluia

**L** "Alleluia! Christ is risen."

**C** "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

If you look at Page xxiv of your *Lutheran Service Book*, you will find the definition of the word "Alleluia." It is a Hebrew word that we leave untranslated as an expression of praise. It means "Praise the Lord!"

Throughout the season of Lent, the church sets aside some of the most celebratory parts of the service. The Gloria in Excelsis and Alleluia are hung up until the Lord brings us out of captivity by His Easter joy (PSALM 137).

During this Easter Vigil service, we "resurrect" the Alleluia. As we welcome the risen Christ, we greet Him with a resounding "Alleluia," "Praise the Lord!"

Especially after refraining from singing it, you'll notice that most Easter hymns are full of joyful Alleluias. In the coming Sundays, count how many hymns have Alleluias in them.

## Seek and Find

- ☐ Trumpets
- ☐ The Alleluia banner
- ☐ Joyful hands raised in celebration
- ☐ Palm branches raised for the King

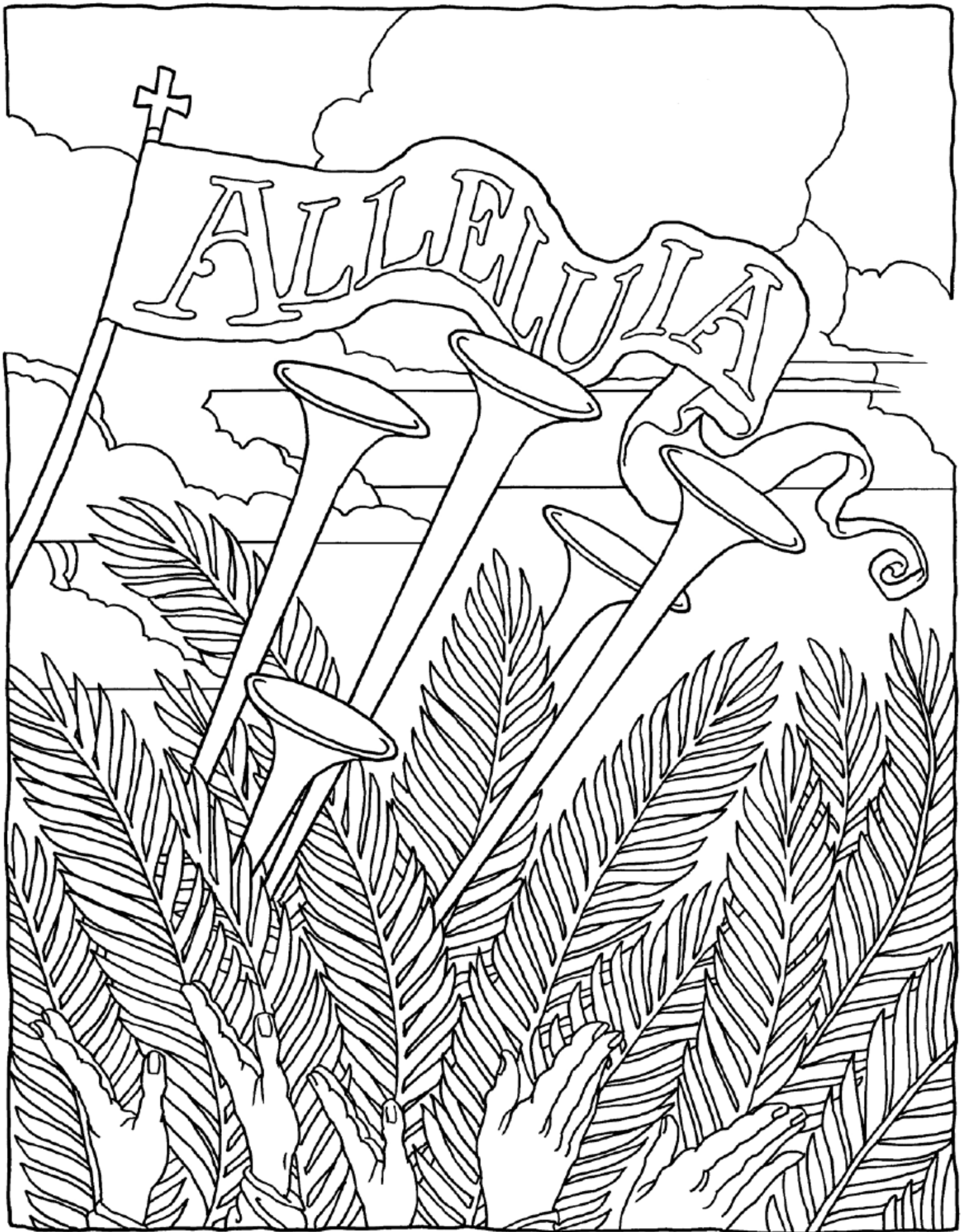
## Think About It

How do you feel singing "Alleluia" again after this long Lenten season?



*Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*





# April Prayer Calendar

Every day, let us include the person/position/event mentioned in our prayers. You can pray for them, the job they do, those who recieve or in whatever way you are led.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Council Members	2 Lenten Supper Servers	3 Confirmation Students	4 April Anniversaries	5 April Birthdays
6 April Altar Guild Servers	7 Quilters	8 Endowment Fund Committee	9 Visiting Pastors	10 Principal	11 Finance Team	12 LWML
13 Confirmation Students	14 Music Director	15 Funeral Luncheon Volunteers	16 Pastor	17 Trustees	18 Lawn Mowing Team	19 Egg Hunt Volunteers
20 Church Mice	21 School Janitors	22 Oktoberfest Planning Team	23 Women's Bible Study Group	24 Choir Members	25 SJA Parents	26 Treasurer
27 Board of Ed	28 Stewardship Committee	29 Elders	30 SJA students			