

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
April 2019

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Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 10AM-1PM

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters & brothers in Christ,

Not gonna lie, I don't remember Maundy Thursday much growing up. It's possible that a worship did happen that night, but, perhaps, it didn't strike the sustaining-memory chords like the Bible-slamming or the nail-driving of Good Friday, not to mention the pull-out-all-the-organ-stops and *Hallelujah!* chorus-singing of the Resurrection Day. Maundy Thursday tends to get lost in the Holy Week parading turned somber-ing turned celebrating the unbelievable.

The first thing of Maundy Thursday from my not-so-immense memory bank is being downstairs at one of our neighboring Lutheran congregations, as the three church bodies in town joined together for the midweeks of their Lenten journey. I don't remember a thing that was said. I just remember sitting at those long tables (the 70's-esque faded yellow kind that seem to be standard for any fellowship hall at a Lutheran church), and when it came time for Communion, we didn't stand up and walk over to some make-shift altar area; we stayed right where we were. The bread was passed down. So was the wine. We shared Communion to each other.

It was...awkward at first...not gonna lie. It just wasn't...the usual. Nevertheless, the un-usual has a way of breaking open the doors of the memory bank and staying put for years to come. Come to think of it, that's probably more so the way it went for the disciples when they sat (or, perhaps, lounged/reclined) around that table the night before their whole world was about to change (when their memory banks were about to be drastically altered, to say the least). More than likely, they didn't walk up to Jesus to receive the bread and wine; it was passed around amongst them.

Then, there's Judas. He was given a spot at that table, too. He, too, received that bread and wine of love and compassion and mercy and sacrifice and...unbelievable-ness. Jesus didn't seem to mind including him. His love had a way of extending that far (just...unbelievable). Those of us who gathered around those tables at a Lutheran church



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**Evangelical Lutheran
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God's work. Our hands.

fellowship hall were probably closer to Judas than not. We have our own way of betraying the love and compassion and mercy and sacrifice-discipleship we were all called into from the baptismal new life beginning. We have our own way of betraying our Lord of the unbelievable-ness.

And yet, we're given a spot...every time, no matter what. As much as we try to turn Judas into a philosophical/theological wondering of whether it was his own free will or the devil-made-him-do-it or he was, actually, carrying out God's plan to make the cross come to life for the good of us all or just plain 'ole human greed or all the above or something in between; we just try to avoid letting Judas get too close to our humanity. We'll let Jesus get that close, thank you, but for the love of all things holy...not Judas. Just for the slightest chance our unbelievable Lord may not love us quite the same.

Maundy Thursday says otherwise: we will not get lost in the shuffle. Our sin, our wonderings, our fear, our refusal to accept what we've done, our...humanity, will not stop the bread and wine being passed to us next. The body of Christ was and is and will be given for you! The blood of Christ was and is and will be given for you! And not because how well we lived up to our respective Lenten discipline or how many midweeks we participated in or how many worships beyond Christmas and Easter...no, just our unbelievable-grace Lord setting the table for us to experience how much He still loves us. How much His love will shatter open a gravestone soon enough, not just for some philosophical/theological discussion; instead: for you! Thanks be to God indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

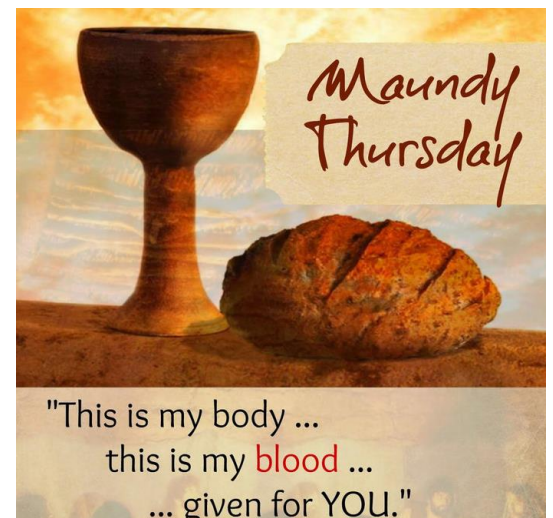


Our sisters and brothers in Christ of The Lutheran Church of the Covenant (Maple Heights) and Lutheran Church of the Master (Bedford) will continue hosting midweek Lenten services using a prayer and music setting of Holden Evening Prayer. These Wednesday evening worship opportunities begin with a soup supper at 6PM.

April 3 @ Master
April 10 @ Master

Lutheran Church of the Master
860 Northfield Rd. Bedford

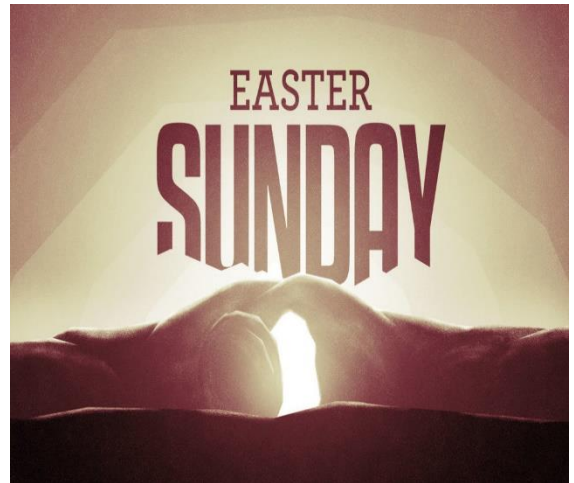
Holy Week opportunities will, also, be available for worship with our sisters and brothers in Christ from Covenant and Master, as you are invited to come for Maundy Thursday (April 18, 7pm) at the Lutheran Church of the Master (860 Northfield Rd., Bedford). The night will begin with a light seder meal, symbolizing the simple feast shared amongst the disciples with their Lord. Then, we will conclude with worship, and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion that, still, makes us whole!





You are, then, invited to worship on Good Friday (7pm) at The Lutheran Church of the Covenant (19000 Libby Rd., Maple Heights), where we will experience the Service of Nails with a selection of short readings, singing hymns, as well as the opportunity (if one feels so moved) to put a nail into a cross. We will also hear the Solemn Reproaches, bringing our Savior's words from the cross to life all the more.

Finally, join us back here at Triune Sunday, April 21, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 11am, hearing the Greatest News of all and singing some of the most up-lifting Easter hymns!



As you will read below, we will be putting off our collection for Lutheran World Relief until the fall. Instead, we will, now, start gathering items for the men's homeless shelter led by our own Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside is the largest shelter in the state of Ohio, serving up to 350 men per night with an additional 30-60 beds available at partner overflow sites.

So, in honor of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry celebrating 50 years of ministry, we invite you to join us providing certain needed resources for the men: pocket-sized Kleenex, combs and men's deodorant. Of course, many toiletry items are needed, but we will, also, be asking for such items in the fall for the Lutheran World Relief personal aid kits. You may drop off your donations through April and May at the church as you come for worship or during the designated office hours. Thank you, in advance, for being part of this pivotal ministry of the wider church for those in need!



Prayer Request

We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jenny Bennett | Hazel Schwab |
| Bev Deitrick | George Tomaselli |
| Cathy Gallagher | Trudy Weidman |
| Dianne Handlovics | Mardell Weiss |
| Richard Jakubcin | Clara Wilcox |
| Paul Loede | Dave Wilcox |
| Mary Phillips | |

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 2 | Dave Schatt |
| 8 | Tina Schwab |
| 10 | Bonnie Piskac |
| 15 | Kyle Schwab |



Our Monday afternoon Bible study group, continuing *Your God is Too Small*, weekly at 1pm. Newcomers always welcome (with more books available)!



lutheran metropolitan ministry

Items We're Collecting April & May to Support LMM's Men's Shelter:



Minutes of Triune Lutheran Church Semi Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday 03 March 2019

Meeting was preceded by a supper social gathering after which additional congregation members also joined. Meeting was opened by Dale at 5:55 PM.

Information package for the meeting was distributed after which the minutes of the last meeting of 11 November 2018 were reviewed, were moved for approval by Heidi, seconded by Tim, and so approved.

Jack reported Thrivent Mutual Fund present value at approximately \$147,474, subject to daily change, and checking account at \$5,109. as of 01 March. Detail report was included in information package. Jack also reported that mutual fund held at average of about 155K over last year, dipping in December and partially recovering. Withdrawal had to be made for parking lot refurbishing, but was partially returned after receipt of property tax refund. Savings in advertising were also discussed.

Jack discussed maintenance issues with overall good level of maintenance. Overlapping this subject is present completion of formal rental contract for Willmann Hall, which affects maintenance burden, safety and the burden of providing surveillance of renter's conduct. One aspect of conduct and safety is the wandering of young people all over the building. Specifically discussed was possibility of temporary barrier to prevent access to the area south of the coat racks.

Almut led us through the financial analysis to document the salient facts that, although our budget deficit for 2018 was less than anticipated, it is figured to be substantial for 2019, particularly with loss of Sovereign Grace Community Church rental and reduction in offering. Also, our assets shown steady reduction. Although we have done well in reducing expenses, our overall financial direction shows steady decline with the necessary conclusion that we should not wait until nearing insolvency to find means of changing this direction or establishing a well-organized and most productive means of demise.

With this reality in mind, pastor noted that we could seek help of Synod staff in seeking an approach which will change our course, perhaps in cooperation with another congregation as we have in the past. The Synod staff could have information on other congregations' needs that might open possibilities or some approach that could apply to membership and/or the financial side of the challenge. We might be able to receive consultation with the Synod on this.

Pastor described to us the nature of Facebook responses, illustrated in the sheets included in the information package. Numbers of responses are encouraging, and cost is lower than printed, but known resulting visits to our services do not match what might be expected from the responses.

Pastor included a list of suggested outreach programs in the information package. We discussed that fact that the project for donating personal item packages under Lutheran World Relief auspices had best be held off until fall, because local congregations that provide collection sites would not be making delivery of them before then. For meanwhile, we discussed the other possibilities in the list.

For the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside, we considered the "Miscellaneous" listing, but this had such a wide variety of items that it was thought best to make inquiry directly to them as to what smaller group of items would be most needed and welcome.

The matter of an outdoor remote programmed electric sign was raised. It was noted that we should get local permission before action.

Meeting adjournment moved by Heidi, seconded by Tim, so approved and closed at 6:53 PM

Initial copies to Dale Kirk, Bonnie Piskac, Pastor Brad, Jack Schwab, Bill Weidman on 04 March 2019

April 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|----------------|---|--|---|---|
| | 1 Bible Study @ 1 pm Worship @ Oaks of Brecksville 3:15 pm | 2 AA @ 7pm | 3 Service @ 6 Lutheran Church of the Master | 4 AA @ 8 pm | 5 | 6 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE |
| 7 WORSHIP @11 AM | 8 Bible Study @ 1 pm | 9 AA @ 7pm | 10 Service @ 6 Lutheran Church of the Master | 11 AA @ 8 pm | 12 | 13 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD |
| 14 WORSHIP @11 AM Palm Sunday | 15 Bible Study @ 1 pm | 16 AA @ 7pm | 17 | 18 Maundy Thursday 7pm @ Master (Bedford) AA @ 8 pm | 19 Good Friday, 7pm @ Covenant (Maple Hts) | 20 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE |
| 21 WORSHIP @11 AM Easter Sunday! | 22 Bible Study @ 1 pm | 23 AA @ 7pm | 24 | 25 AA @ 8 pm | 26 | 27 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD |
| 28 WORSHIP @11 AM | 29 Bible Study @ 1 pm | 30 AA @ 7pm | | | | |



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.