

Covenant News



April 2022

Pastor's Spin



Siblings in Christ of Covenant,

I remember when *The Passion of the Christ* first arrived in theaters. It was my freshman year of college, and oddly enough, I was taking an Introduction to the Bible class, a course I figured would be relatively easy being the son of a Sunday school teacher, even if I only remembered about half of what I was taught in those makeshift classrooms at the back of the church building. Instead, there was

much more to Scripture than I anticipated: historical context, literary styles, geography, and so much more. The Bible came to life in a way I never imagined during those several weeks.

When our professor passed out the daunting syllabus on the first day of class, I don't believe it included a slot for a film that was attempting to make a certain part of Scripture come to life in a way that had not quite been pulled off before. Nevertheless, our professor coordinated with the rest of our schedules to meet up at the theater several miles away from campus to watch *The Passion of the Christ* together, and then for the next class, we would discuss our reactions and thoughts, and he would do his best to provide the historical context and whatever else good professors would do.

I still remember at the conclusion of the movie, when the credits scrolled down the screen, how the entire audience seemed to sit in stunned silence. It was rather overwhelming, even sad and depressing for some. And yet, for many years after that night, it was part of my Good Friday ritual to watch *The Passion of the Christ*, as if that was by far the best way to connect with the true essence of that rather somber day. Sure, we've done our best to bring that holy day to life in worship with extinguishing candles, reading through the appropriate parts of Scripture, perhaps some nails, even a Bible slamming for good measure, at times. But, obviously, it's not quite the same as viewing the sometimes gory moments of Jesus' final bodily earthly days on a screen.

Soon enough, that Good Friday ritual faded away for me. I wondered if that really was what Good Friday was supposed to be about? To find some way to immerse yourself into the pain and anguish of what Jesus endured long ago? Or maybe it was meant to be about Christ's mind-boggling and ultimate example of sacrificial love brought to life on the cross. Maybe it was meant to be beautiful. Granted, the crucifixion is still a brutal and heinous form of punishment on a human being. There's no getting around that. It is sad and disturbing, but the act of love for all humanity can also be a wonderful and hear-warming experience as well. It's not always easy to pull off such a both-and on Good Friday.

The third verse from Isaac Watt's *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* captures this quite well:

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

After all, it is through that cross that we are reminded that God joins us in our sorrows and joys and everything in between. This is the God who loves us to the point that we are already crowned into a glory and honor of being one with Christ, a bond that can never be taken away from us. Evidently, Christ believed in bringing that to life so much that not even a cross with all its hate and evil could stop him. For that Greatest News of Good Friday and all days, we most certainly give thanks to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

FREE
community
MEAL

Our next FREE community meal will be Thursday, April 28, from 4:30-6pm. Again, we continue this ministry in a drive-thru format from the back of the church. So, if you need a night off from cooking dinner or you know of someone else who needs it, help us spread the word. It is FREE for anyone and everyone!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/2 James Gradert
4/5 Bruce Constant
4/7 Gary Edler
4/10 Jackie Blogna
4/10 Ted Lockmiller
4/20 Tom Susanek
4/22 Annie Copeland
4/23 Dudley Chapman
4/25 Jacqui Knerem
4/27 Charlotte Zaranka



4/9 Deb & Chuck Dickey

Happy 34th Anniversary!

4/15 Toni & Robert Ridgell

Happy 27th Anniversary!

4/15 Sheila & Harry Werner

Happy 44th Anniversary!



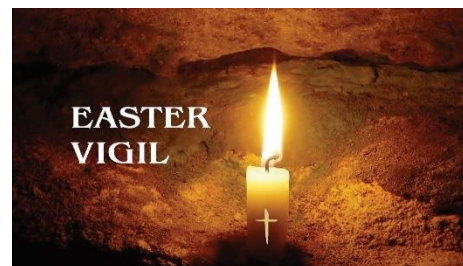
On Sunday, April 10 (9am), we celebrate the joyous entry of our Lord amidst shouts of “Hosanna!” Palms will be passed out as we sing “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” in helping us feel but a glimpse of that triumphant day in Jerusalem, setting the stage for the week that continues to impact the world for the better!

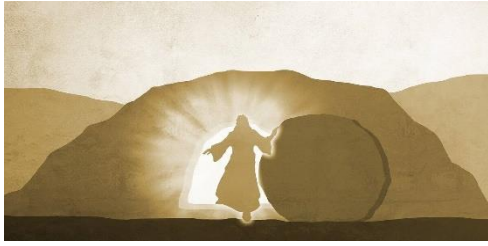
We join our siblings in Christ from the Church of the Master for Maundy Thursday (April 14, 7pm) to celebrate the meal that is meant for us all to enjoy. There will also be an opportunity for hand-washing, for those who so choose, so that we remember Jesus’ desire for us all to love one another. The worship begins at 7pm here at Covenant.



Again, we join our siblings in Christ from Church of the Master here at Covenant for Good Friday (April 15, 7pm). As in years past, we will provide a Service of the Nails for us to understand the immense love Jesus had for us then on Calvary, and still to this day. There will be an opportunity for you to place a nail in the cross, if you wish.

On Easter Sunday (April 17), you are invited to start your day early at 7am, as we catch the first glimpse of the Resurrection dawn through a collection of Scripture and hymns, culminating in a thanksgiving for our baptism that unites us to that Resurrection hope meant for us all!

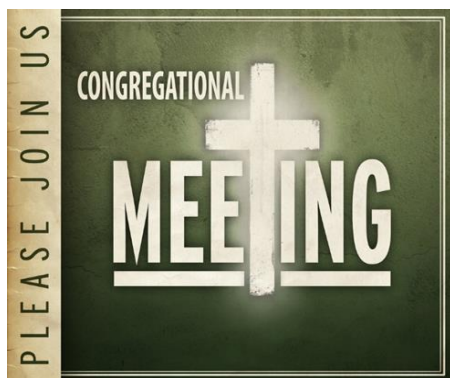




Finally, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 9am on Easter Sunday (April 17), with the help of a brass quintet and our handbell choir, as we proclaim with all we have that Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!



From all of us at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant, we pray God's blessings of Resurrection hope and new life for you and yours this Easter season and always! Christ is Risen for you!



Our next congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, immediately following the worship. We hope you can join us as we discuss the ministry of our Covenant family to each other and beyond! As always, we wish to thank you for being part of this wonderful community of faith, which is made possible by your continued generosity, not only financially, but with your time and talents. Also, with that in mind, in this newsletter, you will find our latest budget, which has been approved by our council. This will serve as needed jumping-off point to consider where we are as a congregation, and what we wish to do going forward. Again, we ask you that you plan ahead for May 1, and be a part of these needed conversations that impact our Covenant family. Continue to be well, dear church!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
December 31, 2022

EXPENSES	FINAL Budget 2022	1st Preliminary Budget 2022	NO CHANGE Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
Benevolence					
ELCA Support	7,387	7,387	8,201	8,201	8,374
Lutheran Agencies Organization Services	2,873	2,873	3,189	3,189	3,256
Other Benevolence: LCC Help Fund					
Total Benevolence	10,260	10,260	11,390	11,390	11,630
Pastoral Ministry					
Permanent Pastor					
Salary	21,316	21,316	20,754	20,754	20,313
---Base Salary	2,205	2,205	2,162	2,162	2,127
---FICA Allowance	23,521	23,521	22,916	22,916	22,440
Subtotal Salary					
Pension/Benefits	8,121	8,121	3,617	3,617	2,994
---Health (MS)	3,042	3,042	2,825	2,825	3,593
---Pension	395	395	424	424	749
---Disability			198	198	209
---Group Term Life			198	198	60
---Admin & Retiree	273	273	198	198	
Subtotal Pension Benefits	11,831	11,831	7,262	7,262	7,605
Housing Allowance	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Auto Allowance	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	900
Moving & Relocation	450	450	450	450	750
Cell Phone	450	450	450	450	450
Continuing Education					
Subtotal Permanent Pastor	45,552	45,552	40,378	40,378	39,645
Interim Pastor					
---Base Salary					
---FICA Allowance					
Subtotal Salary					
Housing Allowance					
Auto Allowance					
Subtotal Interim Pastor	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Supply Pastors	38	35	347	347	355
General Pastoral					
Call Committee	46,590	46,587	41,725	41,725	41,000
Grand Total Pastoral					
Evangelism/Outreach					
Special Events	200	200	200	200	100
Outreach			1,000	1,000	
Publicity					1,200
Evangelism	200	200	200	200	200
Social Ministry					
Total Evangelism/Outreach	400	400	1,400	1,400	1,500

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
 December 2022

	FINAL Budget 2022	1st Preliminary Budget 2022	NO CHANGE Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
REVENUES					
Envelope Offerings					
Pledge Offerings	\$99,000	\$99,000	\$109,300	\$109,300	\$111,700
Loose Offerings	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Envelope Offerings	101,000	101,000	111,300	111,300	113,700
Seasonal Offerings					
Lenten	225	225	400	400	400
Easter/Good Friday/Maundy Thursday	675	675	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ascension Thursday	100	100	100	100	100
Thanksgiving	100	100	100	100	100
Christmas	500	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
Special Gifts--New Year's Eve, New Years Day					
Thrivent Choice Dollars Program	575	575	1,900	1,900	1,500
Special Gifts--Other	100	25	1,500	1,500	1,000
Seasonal Offerings	2,275	2,200	6,000	6,000	5,100
Other					
Memorials			2,000	2,000	2,000
Unrestricted Gifts--Gift Cards					
Unrestricted Gifts	100	100	200	200	200
Restricted Gifts					
Other	100	100	2,200	2,200	2,200
Rental Income (Outside Groups)					
Preach The Gospel					
Southeast Clergy Center					
Electronic Classrooms of Tomorrow					
Other	7,500	7,500	10,200	10,200	3,200
Rental Income	7,500	7,500	10,200	10,200	3,200
Miscellaneous	25	25	400	400	400
TOTAL REVENUES	\$110,900	\$110,825	\$130,100	\$130,100	\$124,600

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
December 2022

	FINAL Budget 2022	1st Preliminary Budget 2022	NO CHANGE Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019
EXPENSES					
Education					
Adult Education					
Sunday School					
Confirmation					
Sunday School Bibles	50	50	50	50	50
Subscriptions (The Lutheran)	350	350	375	375	50
Subscriptions (Christ In Our Home)	400	400	425	425	375
Conferences & Synod Meetings					
Total-Education	190	190	200	200	475
Stewardship (Offering Envelopes)					
Worship and Music Ministry					
Music Dir/Org Salary	14,652	14,220	14,220	14,220	13,800
Hand bell Director Salary	500	500	1,030	1,030	1,030
Subtotal--Musicians	15,152	14,720	15,250	15,250	14,830
Supply Musicians					
---Special Musicians	1,000	1,000	750	750	750
---Saturday Musicians					
---Vacation Supply (Organist)					
Subtotal--Supply Musicians	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Music					
Music-Traditional	150	150			
Music-Handbells					
Copyright Licensing---One License	150	150	25	25	185
---CCLI			200	200	130
---GIA					
---Sundays & Seasons					
Subtotal Copyright Licensing	450	450	400	400	250
Organ/Piano Maint.	750	750	625	625	565
Organ/Piano Tuning	1,000	1,000	500	500	500
Subtotal--Organ/Piano	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500
Worship Supplies					
Communion Cards					
Supplies-Celebration Binders					
Candles	100	100	200	200	200
Bulletins					
Supplies-Banners					
Altar & Communion Supplies--Wafers	50	50	150	150	150
Altar & Communion Supplies--Wine	200	200	200	200	200
Palmes					
Miscellaneous	33	30	25	25	25
Subtotal--Worship Supplies	383	380	675	675	80
Total Worship and Music	18,285	17,850	19,300	19,300	655
					18,800

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December 31, 2022

EXPENSES	FINAL Budget 2022	1st Preliminary Budget 2022	NO CHANGE		Budget 2020	Budget 2019
			Budget 2021	Budget 2021		
Administrative						
Secretary Salary	18,336	17,800	17,800	17,800	17,800	17,000
Office Supplies	800	800	800	800	800	1,000
Postage	500	500	500	500	500	900
Internet Access	50	50				
Wireline Services (Telephone--All)	1,050	1,050	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,055
Advertising/Website Host	40	40	250	250	250	200
Office Equipment (Copier)						
--- Lease	3,270	3,270	3,240	3,240	3,240	3,240
Computer						
--- Equipment	100	100	250	250	250	250
--- Software & Support	2,850	2,700	2,766	2,766	2,766	2,655
Employer P/R Taxes FICA)-Social Security	667	485	647	647	647	621
Employer P/R Taxes FICA)-Medicare	200	200				100
Workers Compensation	50	50	50	50	50	200
Bank Service Charges	60	60	75	75	75	75
Bank Service Charges-Vanco	50	50	50	50	50	
Late Fees/Bank Charges	52	45	122	122	122	74
Miscellaneous	28,075	27,200	27,750	27,750	27,750	27,370
Total Administrative						
Property						
Custodial Wages	12,984	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,024
Custodial Wages-Temporary Labor	500	500	500	500	500	
Building Interior-Repairs & Maintenance	2,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000
Preventive Maintenance & Inspection	100	100	100	100	100	90
Equipment Maint. (Boiler Fee)	68	68	60	60	60	60
Consumable Supplies	303	300	500	500	500	501
Expensed Equipment			100	100	100	100
Lawn & Grounds Care	3,045	3,045	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Parking Lot Maintenance-Snow Plowing	2,900	2,900	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Refuse	550	550	550	550	550	450
Subtotal--Property Operations	22,450	22,063	23,910	23,910	23,910	20,725
Utilities						
Electricity	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,800
Gas	4,600	4,600	6,500	6,500	6,500	7,800
Water	250	250	600	600	600	550
Sewer	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Subtotal Utilities	10,350	10,350	13,600	13,600	13,600	14,650
Insurance						
Total Property	39,300	38,913	42,810	42,810	42,810	40,575
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$143,500	\$141,800	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$141,600
EXCESS REVENUES OVER (UNDER)	(\$2,600)	(\$30,975)	(\$14,900)	(\$14,900)	(\$14,900)	(\$17,000)
EXPENSE--SURPLUS (DEFICIT)						

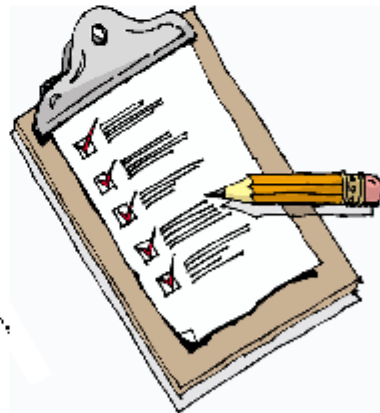
Returning Thursday, April 21, 2022

For five consecutive Thursdays
From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

The Multi-Generational Book Club
At The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137
will be reading and discussing with
teens, parents, grandparents and friends

THE MASTER PLAN
MY JOURNEY FROM LIFE IN
PRISON TO A LIFE OF PURPOSE
By Chris Wilson

The inspiring, instructive, and ultimately triumphant memoir of a man who used hard work and a master plan to turn a life sentence into a second chance.



“Inspiring without being preachy, Wilson’s manifesto will greatly Appeal to today’s youth.” - Publisher’s Weekly

Call Mary Kaye with questions and to register: 216-924-6096

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

April 2022

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	2 5:00 pm Saturday Service 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garberich	3 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	4 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting in Nursery	5 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting in Parish Hall 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	6 No Mid Week service	7	8 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	9 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanek	10 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	11	12 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting Hall	13	14 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	15 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall 7:00 pm Good Friday service	16 5:00 pm Saturday Service at Covenant 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susanek	17 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise 9:00 am Eucharist No Breakfast	18 6:30-8:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting in Nursery	19 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting Parish Hall	20	21 6:00-8:00pm Book Club in parlor	22 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	23 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall
AG: Shella Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	24 First Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	25	26 6:30 pm Women's AA Meeting in Parish Hall	27	28 Community Meal Pick Up 4:30-6:00pm 6:00-8:00pm Book club in parlor	29 6:30-8:30 pm GOD AA meeting Parish Hall	30 3:00 pm Women's AA Meeting in Hall

Church office will be closed the week after Easter. Monday April 18th-Saturday April 23rd.

Covenant News

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137



Covenant Lutheran Women Annual Plant Sale

Order forms are coming. As soon as Arlene Lasher has the dates for order deadline confirmed for April, it will be announced in bulletin and on the website.