



Worship Notes

Friday, April 2, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren
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Dear Friends and Family,

This weekend's worship notes covers Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

This sacred weekend is our celebration of Christ in the full-est. Jesus ate with his disciples, was betrayed by one of the disciples, denied by another, and after he was buried, he awoke on the third day and his resurrection was proclaimed by the women.

Rejoice with all the Alleluias we can lift up this weekend. Celebrate the Good News that nothing separates us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Regular offerings, designated offerings, special gifts—can all be brought to worship and placed in an offering plate. OR you can sign-up to automatically have your offerings given from your bank account. OR you can mail your offerings to the office. Thank you, for however you choose to support the ministry of our church.



Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Rob Kerschke, Gary Gaskill, Charlotte Volz, the family and friends of Darrell Thirtyacre

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Holy Week

Thursday, April 1st, Maundy Thursday will be online worship only

Friday, April 2nd, Good Friday will be online worship only

Links for these worship services will be sent out on each day.

Sun. Apr 4 at 9 AM, in person Easter Worship. We look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus and saying together: Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

This week in worship



Commotion and Covenant and Silence and celebration. These are the themes we will hear over the course of these three Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

In the Commotion of Maundy Thursday, God's response is to renew the covenant with God's people. In the Commotion of Good Friday, God is oddly silent, and yet God's love is on full display for all to see.

In the Commotion of Easter, we learn we can still say Alleluia as the disciples gather once more and ultimately meet the Risen Jesus. Join us for all our special Holy Day worship services.

Living the Creed

This week, we have a fun Living the Creed activity that will engage the whole family.

Download the PDF and create a resurrection garden scene using a large clay pot bottom and a small clay pot. Add some dirt, grass seed and pebbles and one large stone, and you have yourself an empty tomb.

Read through the Easter resurrection story as a family. Talk about how the different disciples might have felt, which one do you more closely identify with in the story?

Don't forget to greet everyone you meet on Easter Day with the words "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

How many respond back with "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"?

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Mark and Ellen Shrader

Usher: Rose Sandstrom

Organist: Janice Algren

Flowers: Angela Bradley-Volz



An Altar Flower ordering form is on our website. Download the PDF to learn more about your options today.

EASTER LILIES! We will not pre-order Easter Lilies. If you would like to bring a potted flower to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Morning, please do. Then you can take your flower home after worship and enjoy.

Blessings

But the angel said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

Mark 16:6

"He is not here," the angel said to the women who came to the tomb on the first Easter morning. "He is not here," we will hear once again as we enter worship on this Easter morning. That's right. Jesus is not **HERE**. Jesus is not in his tomb. Nor, is Jesus in our sanctuary. Jesus is raised from the dead. Jesus is no longer confined to a space we have created. Whether it is the unused tomb carved into the rock, or the manmade structures where we gather to worship him. Jesus is not here.

And this is the Good News. Jesus is not here. Instead, as the angel continues telling the women, Jesus is going ahead of the disciples, to Galilee. Instead, Jesus is going ahead of us, to the neighborhoods where we live, to the workplaces and shops and markets we frequent. Jesus is going ahead of us to places where people need to be fed. Jesus is going ahead of us to places where people need to be clothed. Jesus is going ahead of us to places where people need economic justice. Jesus is going ahead of us where people need racial justice. Jesus is going ahead of us where people need equality and dignity and value. Jesus is not here. Jesus is leading us forward and Jesus is leading us away from the tomb of death into the life of resurrection.

We will gather once more on Sunday morning to hear this Good News that Jesus is not here. We will worship the God who raised Christ to new life. We will receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, whose death is the sacrifice that draws us into God forever. But then this message of the angel will echo in our ears ... Look, he is not here, he is going ahead of you, there you will see him, just as he told you.

Yes, when we follow where Jesus leads, we will see him. We will see him in the action of our feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, lifting up the poor, freeing the oppressed, offering equality for those who equality has been denied. What are we waiting for? It's time to leave the empty tomb and go where Jesus is already waiting for us.

In peace, Pastor Jamie