



Worship Notes

Friday, March 26, 2021

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janice Algren
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Dear Friends and Family,

One year ago, we entered Holy Week with an unsteady camera, and uncertain how to record liturgy. Now, this year we enter Holy Week having resumed in-person worship and with a much steadier camera for recording worship for on-line participation. There is much to celebrate approaching this Easter, and much to be mindful of as we continue striving toward the goal of this pandemic completely over. Through it all, our God walks with us, hears our praise and singing, feeds us with Jesus' body and blood, and strengthens us for all that life tosses our way.

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, Darrell Thirtyacre, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Kim Anderson, Matthew Council, Rose Youngquist, Kathi Cruce, Rob Kerschke, Gary Gaskill, Charlotte Volz

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

Holy Week

Sun. March 28 at 9 AM, in person worship. We will begin including more congregational responses and a second hymn with this Palm Sunday worship

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

Holy Week is filled with a series of special worship services and specially designed liturgies.

Our liturgies for these next four worship services are filled with more scripture readings, to help us focus on the central event of our faith—the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our Sermon Themes will find us at the meeting point of our chaotic world and God at work in our chaotic world. This is a place where we see death and God sees opportunity for new life.

Invite your friends to join us for these special services, either in-person or online.



Living the Creed

Throughout Lent, our Living the Creed at-home Faith Learning Experience will focus on stories from the ministries of the ELCA World Hunger.

This week, we meet the Lingston family from Malawi. The Lingston's received help from the ELCA World Hunger. They received agriculture training as well as the gift of goats and pigs. As part of a community, they benefited from these gifts and their lives began improving to the point of being able to sustain themselves.

Watch the video on the ELCA World Hunger page and use the PDF to learn more about how our contributions to ELCA World Hunger make a tremendous difference in Malawi and 59 other nations around the world.

Thank you for all your donations this season to both Jamieson Center and ELCA World Hunger.

This Sunday's Worship Helpers

Worship Assistant: Judy Sanberg
Usher: Doug Cruce
Organist: Jamie Reynolds
Flowers: *open*



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 Therefore I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others.

Martin Luther, 1527, in response to the plague

Pray, then act. These are the words of advice from Martin Luther in response to the plague experienced across Europe in 1527. These are also the words we have been living by over the past year of our modern era pandemic. The global crisis has been worthy of much prayer. We pray for those who are sick and those who grieve the deaths of loved ones. We pray for doctors and nurses; we pray for researchers and medical experts. We have prayed for political leaders to guide our state and nation in the right ways of standing together against this pandemic.

But prayers are not enough. Prayers alone never solve a problem. Prayers alone do not bring about any desired result. For prayer to be effective, we must turn these prayers into action. And we have acted: We have had online worship, we have been socially distanced when in-person for worship, we wear our masks. We have acted in support of neighbors in need, bringing them food and water and medicine, giving rides and connecting on the phone.

Martin Luther's words from almost 500 years ago have been, perhaps unknowingly, our mantra for the entire past 12 months. And they will remain our mantra as we tread ever slowly to the end of this pandemic. And these words will guide us through other national crisis as well, from the global hunger crisis, to the uniquely American crisis of uncontrollable gun violence. Pray, then act.

Prayers go once more to the communities of Atlanta, GA and Boulder, CO. Prayers go to all who suffer from uncontrollable gun violence. Actions are needed to solve this crisis, just as actions were needed to solve our pandemic. We can advocate for just laws. We can advocate for stronger health care and better access to mental health resources. We can advocate for improved economic lives and for more investment into education resources. Pray, then act. Our faith is not an experience that isolates us from others, it compels us to be in community and to see God's vision of new life come to all. This Holy Week, may we be the blessing to our world through both our prayers and our actions.

In peace, Pastor Jamie