



April Newsletter



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Palm Sunday & Holy Week by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

Depending on when you are reading this, we will either be just about to enter into Holy Week, amidst it, or perhaps the newsletter got to you late and you are reading this after the entire Easter celebration. Regardless, Holy Week is a deep and meaningful week. It is jam-packed with the feels of excitement with the Triumphant Entry all the way to the deep seated sorrow of the horrific death of our Lord.

It is really easy to avoid that rollercoaster of emotions. It is easy for us as people to enjoy the waving of palm branches and skip right over to the hiding of the eggs, filling Easter baskets, and casually showing up to Easter morning worship to a full sanctuary proclaiming that Jesus Christ is risen indeed.

But if we skip past the entire narrative of the Passion of Christ, we miss out on the understanding and realization of just how deeply we have betrayed Christ, betrayed God's only Son. And if we do not understand the depth of our sin, the relief from the mercy, grace, and forgiveness that comes with the resurrection surely cannot be as effective. We must hear and feel the convictions of our sins. As Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, "...You also must consider yourselves dead to sin..." for that is the consequence of sin.

How is it that we betrayed Jesus? That we denied Him; crucified Him? You don't have to look that far to answer the question. Constantly we do not treat our neighbors as we ought. "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me (Matt. 25:45)."

How often do you shy away from a strong, firm confession of faith when asked about Jesus to avoid judgment or hate? The list can go on and on. Are you feeling guilty yet? If not, open up the 10 Commandments, google them if you must. Then merely think about the last day or two. This is why Christ died. Because we are a fallen humanity, incapable of coming anywhere close to saving itself - not as a society, and not even as individuals. To understand the importance of the resurrection and Easter Sunday, we must feel all these feelings.

But Paul's verse in Romans 6 has a second half! "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin.... and ALIVE TO GOD IN JESUS CHRIST." While it is important to grasp the depth of our sin and death to truly understand the mercy and forgiveness of Christ, we are not meant to be left there! After the darkness of Good Friday, the Son (or sun) comes up 3 days later to shine brighter than ever before! When Jesus says "It is finished" on the cross, it is your sin, your death, that is finished. He has taken it all. So that when He comes again to new life, you may rise with Him in a resurrection like His. Forgiven and made new all in His glorious name. May this be the joy and peace that you revel in not only on Easter Sunday, but each and every day and time you hear His Word proclaimed to you. You are His child made holy in His sight, now and forevermore.

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Maxwell Whitehead



April Calendar

Sunday, Apr 2 (Palm Sunday)

8:00 AM Council Meeting
9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Apr 5

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Thursday, April 6 (Maundy Thursday)

7:00 PM Worship Service @ SVLC

Friday, April 7 (Good Friday)

7:00 PM Worship Service @ OSLC

Sunday, Apr 9 (Easter Sunday)

7:30 AM Easter Worship Service
 8:30 AM Easter Breakfast served by VCIS Youth

Wednesday, Apr 12

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Apr 16

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Apr 19

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Apr 23

9:00 AM Worship Service
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Apr 26

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Apr 30

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

April Scripture Readings

Apr 2 - Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

Apr 9 - Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4,
 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



Apr 16 - Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

Apr 23 - Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35











Apr 30 - Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

April Ushers & Cleaners






April Ushers

 Krisit & Mark Johnson
 Kari Novak
 Kelly Sorensen
 Gayle & Rita Westergard


Cleaners Mar 26 - April 8 Cleaners April 9 - 22

 Tammy Zimmerman
 Tonya Rudd
 Kelli Zimmerman
 Amy Christensen
 Amanda Goergen
 Rita Westergard,
 Wanda Kost,
 Charlene Overgard,
 Gail Anderson,
 Kristi Johnson

Cleaners April 23 - May 6

 Pam Ludens,
 Sarah Ludens,
 Lynne Elcock,
 Kari Novak,
 Tammy Sorensen

Worship Helpers

Sunday, Apr 2

Reader Youth
 Acolytes Reagan & Nora Rudd
 Communion Helper Brooklyn
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Brenda Whitehead

Sunday, Apr 9

Reader VCIS Youth
 Acolytes Carston & Lincoln Mellem
 Communion Helper VCIS Youth
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, Apr 16

Reader Karen Larsen
 Acolytes Kaleb Huber & Emily Ludens
 Communion Helper Lilly
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, Apr 23

Reader Brett Mellem
 Acolytes Reagan & Nora Rudd
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Music Praise Band

Sunday, Apr 30

Reader Faydra Christensen
 Acolytes Carston & Lincoln Mellem
 Communion Helper Ryder
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske



Looking Ahead To May

Wednesday, May 3

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 7

8:00 AM Council Meeting
9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, May 10

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 14

6:45 AM Sunrise Worship Service
 7:45 AM Brunch served by VCIS Youth

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 21

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 10:15 AM Sunday School



Holy Week Worship



Maundy
Thursday
"Do this in Memory of Me"

**Worship Service
7:00PM at SVLC**

The graphic features a dark background with a large, light-colored ceramic chalice on the left and several pieces of flatbread on the right.



GOOD FRIDAY

**Worship Service
7:00PM at OSLC**

The graphic shows a wooden cross resting on a surface, with a crown of thorns draped over it.

Please Lift in Prayer

- † Art Wirth
- † Beverly Andersen
- † Marin Bultena
- † Pastor Carol Marohl
- † Family & Friends of Ralph Johansen
- † Family & Friends of Jordan Mogck
(Lisa M's niece)



The graphic is enclosed in a green double-line border and features a cluster of white and pink lilies on the right side.



EASTER BREAKFAST
HOSTED BY VCIS

Easter Sunday after worship
at SVLC (8:30AM-ish)

The graphic depicts a breakfast meal including a glass of orange juice, a cup of coffee, a slice of toast with jam, and a plate of fried eggs and sausages.

April
22

May Newsletter Deadline is
April 22, 2023. Please submit
all articles and information by
days end! Thank You!

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
Spring Valley

