Holy Week and Easter at Christ Lutheran Church

March 20  Palm/Passion Sunday

Procession with Palms, Passion reading from St. Luke & Eucharist beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Stations of the Cross (Black Bodies): contemplative worship at 5:00 p.m.

March 24  Maundy Thursday

Absolution, Foot-washing, Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar at 7:30 p.m.

March 25  Good Friday

Passion reading from St. John & Veneration of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

March 26  Great Vigil of Easter

New Fire, Readings, Renewal of Baptism & First Eucharist of Easter at 8:00 p.m., followed by Paschal Pot-luck Supper

March 27  Easter Sunday

Festival Eucharist at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., with Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.
Who doesn’t love the unmitigated joy of Easter morning? On this “Queen of Feasts” the Church explodes in joy, with all of our senses drawn into the celebration: the smells of spring blossoms, the sounds of choir and congregation, organ and other instruments tuned to praise, the touch of water traced over hearts in remembrance of baptism, the taste of holy bread and wine, the sight of white and gold paraments and other festive adornments.

Yet it hasn’t always been exactly so. To be sure, Easter has always been a day of Christian rejoicing, but prior to the fourth century, the Easter celebration was comprised of both fast and feast—a unitive commemoration of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, his Passion death, and resurrection, which, together, are at the heart of Christian worship. Throughout the liturgical year, the Church marks Jesus’ preaching, teaching, and healing, but it is his Pascha that was and remains the central focus of Christian worship. These three holy days, therefore, are the climax of the Church year.

In the mid-20th century, the Lutheran communion, along with other denominations, joined in a liturgical renewal movement, which included the rediscovery of the spiritual wealth to be experienced in keeping these three observances closely connected. With the development of the Lutheran Book of Worship and, especially, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, this unity has been recovered. At Christ Lutheran Church we emphasize the unitive nature of the observances with the publication of a single bulletin for the three holy days of the Triduum (pronounced TRIH-doo-um).

The climax, of course, is the Great Vigil on Saturday night, begun in darkness, wordlessly reminding us of the sin, darkness, and death that surrounds us apart from the light of Christ, and that we as Christ’s people await his resurrection. So we begin with the lighting of the new fire, the light of Christ, whose flame then lights the candles held by the assembled worshipers. After a procession to the “tent” where the readings will be proclaimed comes the exsultet, a chanted prayer calling upon all of heaven and earth to rejoice in the events of this night. The twelve readings from the Hebrew Scriptures, chronicling the saving, merciful acts of God toward his people Israel, offer a foretaste of our salvation in Christ. The third liturgy of the night is the renewal of baptism (or baptism, when there are candidates), followed by the first Eucharist of Easter. At Christ we extend the celebration with a pot-luck Paschal supper in the parish hall.

This service is the liturgy of liturgies, the night where sound and symbol, heaven and earth, meet in holy joy. Don’t miss it!

Peace.

Pastor Rebecca Bourret
MUSIC NOTES
Tom Berryman, Music Director

**Lenten Preludes:** During the Sundays of Lent the Prelude music will be based on seasonal hymns and includes compositions by Johannes Brahms, Helmut Walcha, Gerald Near, Samuel Barber and J.S. Bach. Music selected for the Prelude is intended to enhance our preparation for the Service.

Don’t forget about **SING FOR JOY** [http://www.stolaf.edu/singforjoy/listen/](http://www.stolaf.edu/singforjoy/listen/) from St. Olaf College featuring music and reflection on the appointed lessons for each Sunday of the church year. An excellent way to keep the weekly lessons and themes in mind during the week.

**Handbell Maintenance Day:** Saturday, March 5 9-noon. The CLC Handbell Choir will be working with a representative from Malmark Handbells to restore and repair our three octave set of handbells and our Malmark hand chimes. The bells will be disassembled, repaired, polished and then reassembled. The Bell Choir will perform next on Sunday, April 10.

**UPCOMING PERFORMANCES WITH CLC MEMBERS:**
*support live music!*

Chorus Pro Musica: **Journeys** Saturday, March 13 8 pm Sanders Theater [http://www.choruspromusica.org/concerts](http://www.choruspromusica.org/concerts) Jeff Pearson, Kim, Mary Wolf

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**CLC @ the MOVIES**

**THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY**

Sunday, April 3, 4 PM (NOTE DATE!)
Memorial Room

Helen Mirren stars in this 2014 comedy-drama produced by Juliet Blake, Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey and directed by Lasse Hallström. An Indian emigrant family of restauranteurs opens a restaurant across the street from Madame Mallory’s upscale Michelin-starred French restaurant and a bitter rivalry ensues with disastrous consequences. Richard Morais’ novel by the same title was selected as a “favorite summer read” by Winfrey who writes: “Food blends cultures and allows us to have just a little peek into someone else’s life ... It is about a hundred foot divide between cultures.”

122 minutes, PG

Followed by discussion and an Indian/French potluck. No time to prepare food? Please come anyway.
Musical Journey Through Lent

Day 1 of the band working on what turned out to be one of our favorite pieces By the Waters of Babylon. Here you see tone bars (which are really big xylophone bars), singers and guitar. We also prepared special music for Palm Sunday. We’re certain you’ll love it!

Can you imagine your 7th birthday on the first day of camp! Here we are dancing our traditional birthday dance.

Kimani Lumsden joined us for 3 days teaching drumming, dance and songs. Here he is teaching proper stick technique to the Whales, (the youngest group)

Day 1 of the band working on what turned out to be one of our favorite pieces By the Waters of Babylon. Here you see tone bars (which are really big xylophone bars), singers and guitar. We also prepared special music for Palm Sunday. We’re certain you’ll love it!
Each day starts with a song, a prayer and learning the “Words of the Day”. These guide our bible studies. Here you see Russell and Mary Pollard reinforcing “Everyone can win” with the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. (Notice it’s not about everyone gets a trophy at the end of soccer season!)

These stories are followed up after lunch with “Hurst Stories”. Richard Hurst created lively interactive stories and activities which help our campers reflect on that day’s message.

Below you see him, with Nick’s help, brilliantly tying together each day’s words: Together is Better, Have a Plan, Listen before you talk, and Everyone can win, at the final “Hurst Story”.

...we aren’t only about music and bible stories. We strive to serve as well. Check out this stack of prayer scarves the children made for our friends in need of some extra TLC. We didn’t do this alone. Audrey Colson graciously knitted over 100 6x6 colorful squares which our children (with a lot of help) stitched together. On the plate are the hand made fish buttons attached to each scarf.

Like I said, we couldn’t do it alone. Witness some of our expert helpers along with some of our creations: Beverly Frabricius patiently teaching and helping little fingers to stitch!
BUT OH….there’s more….check it out, delicious hot meals provided by a grant Ruth Colson got from Thrivent, expertly prepared and served daily by Carol Virshbo and Jessica Bianco.

Scarfes aren’t the only thing our friends receive, here is a sample of our Easter cards created for the Visitation Committee.

(On your right), Mary Wolf and Diane Steven’s admire the children’s work.

We are very thankful for all the help and support provided by oodles of volunteers. Mary Wolf and Hilding Hedberg were faithfully there every morning by 8:30 staying all day as support.

Andrew Avalos
musical support!

Olivia Struth and Christina Giglio
our youth counselors.

The “Snappy Grace” lead daily by experienced campers.

Thank you CLC for hosting our Musical Journey through Lent
Hello CLC Families,

Thank you for your support and prayers through my time of need recently. I have moved into my new place and my family and I are settling in nicely. I cannot thank you all enough for the help you have provided my family. Thank you.

This month we had the pleasure of having Joan Hunt as a special guest a few Sundays and a Saturday. Ms. Hunt came one Sunday morning to visit with the kids and talk to them about the puppets we were going to make the following Saturday. She then came to our church on February 27th to run a fantastic puppet workshop. She and I came up with some great ideas of how to run the puppet show for the Easter Vigil service. Joan is also coming a couple Sunday mornings in March to help us rehearse our Noah story. She worked so hard with your kids and myself. If you see Joan in church make sure to introduce yourself and thank her for all her hard work.

Next month is a busy month. We have rehearsals Sunday mornings for our Easter Vigil offering, and we have Holy Week. There will be lots of musical offerings during this week. I encourage all youth to come and participate in these services. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil service are very unique. They are important parts of our church year and should be experienced. As a youth group, we also have to start fundraising for the Family Promise Walkathon. We’ll be collecting ideas soon.

Reminder to all youth and parents; we have a youth bulletin board in our church. If you or your kids have an event happening, please post a flyer to our board. If there is a performance, or fundraising event your children are participating in, announce it in church and post a flyer to our board. The board is for all of us to utilize and share things with our church community.

Thank you,
Nicholas Pearson

Adult Forum for March: our series on comparative Christian denominations continues:

6 The Baptist Church
13 The Presbyterian Church & Reformed Church
20 The Moravian Church
27 Easter Sunday: No Forum
Study of our Worship Space on the Near Horizon

“I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the Church together!” Many of us learned this song back in Sunday school, and although it is a song primarily for children, it echoes Article VII of the Book of Concord, the Lutheran Confession, where the Church is thusly defined: “The Church is the congregation of saints, in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments are rightly administered.” In other words, the church is not the building where we meet for worship, nor the creeds that shape our faith, but the saints (and sinners)—the people—who comprise the Body of Christ, and who, together, meet our Lord Jesus Christ as he comes to us in Word and Sacrament.

Some seven years ago, at a January Calumet retreat, Pastor Bourret laid a piece of gray fabric with an outline of our building floor plan on a tabletop and invited folks to look at our building and grounds to answer the question “Where is the church today?” With marking pens, pieces of felt and glue, and their creative energy, groups went to work on the drawing to depict current activities and future possibilities for the places where we can be church.

This fabric floor plan exists to this day, and on the sanctuary floor plan are written the words worship, preaching, large baptismal font with running water, wheelchair space, dance, procession, movement, bands, Gospel, indicative of both the realities and hopes and dreams of our life together as the Body of Christ. In addition to these words and phrases, curved seating on either side of the altar table creates face-to-face encounters with gathered worshippers. At least that many years ago, some of our congregation were thinking about how an adaptable worship space might shape our gathering together as Christ’s Body.

We have been creative in our worship practices in the ensuing years, adopting the Appalachian liturgy “Of Lands and Seasons,” sometimes taking it outdoors where the larger space and open air make it more inviting to visitors. In 2011, working with Medicine Wheel Productions, we installed the “Living Waters” copper fountain along our center aisle. Sunday School kids have waved banners on long poles in an Epiphany procession. We have encircled the nave to receive bread and wine at communion. We have celebrated Holy Communion in the context of full meals at “Dinner Church” and “Brunch Church” in the parish hall.

As musicians and worship planners have worked through the years, we have bumped up again and again against the limitations of our space. Are there ways we might enhance our well-established tradition of rich worship experiences? The Worship, Music, and Visual Arts Committee has recommended to the Church Council a process of study of our worship space in the coming months, with the hope that an initial, three-month information gathering period will lead us to a recommendation about next steps, if any.

Adult Forum sessions will examine Lutheran theology and principles of worship that can guide our thinking. Small group gatherings under the direction of an ad hoc working group will solicit input from church musicians, choir members, music directors, pastor, altar guild members, youth, and the bible study group. Visits to churches with different worship spaces are also planned. Interactive information sessions at coffee hour, written communiqués via E-news, the Reporter, the Sunday bulletin, visual displays and one-on-one conversations will keep us up-to-date on the learnings throughout the process. At every step over the next three months, you are encouraged to offer your input!
**Book group will meet Monday March 7th at 7:30 pm.** We will be discussing the book "Kitchens of the Great Midwest" by J. Ryan Stradal.

When Lars Thorvald's wife, Cynthia, falls in love with wine--and a dashing sommelier--he's left to raise their baby, Eva, on his own. He's determined to pass on his love of food to his daughter--starting with puréed pork shoulder. As Eva grows, she finds her solace and salvation in the flavors of her native Minnesota. From Scandinavian lutefisk to hydroponic chocolate habaneros, each ingredient represents one part of Eva's journey as she becomes the star chef behind a legendary and secretive pop-up supper club, culminating in an opulent and emotional feast that's a testament to her spirit and resilience.

Each chapter in J. Ryan Stradal's startlingly original debut tells the story of a single dish and character, at once capturing the zeitgeist of the Midwest, the rise of foodie culture, and delving into the ways food creates community and a sense of identity. By turns quirky, hilarious, and vividly sensory, Kitchens of the Great Midwest is an unexpected mother-daughter story about the bittersweet nature of life--its missed opportunities and its joyful surprises. It marks the entry of a brilliant new talent.

Come and join in the discussion. The book group is open to anyone, so spread the word bring your friends!

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**Report from the Resource Commission**

The new year has gotten off to a slow financial start again this year. The financial results for January show a deficit of about $1,000, and if all bills had been received in time for posting, it would show a deficit of about $3,000. The good news is that at least so far we have not had enough snow to push the snow removal cost over budget. In fact, expenses for January were below budget by nearly $4,000, even if we include the expenses not received in time for posting. Most of that shortfall is timing, however, that will reverse itself over the next few months. The bad news is that adult giving was below budget by more than $6,600. It is too early in the year to predict any financial trends, except that it is always the case that our financial health is maintained by the faithful stewardship of the congregation.

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**Bible Studies**

**Come, join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** to experience Bible discussions with Pastor Richard Hurst.

These sessions will last one hour. Coffee, tea, and cookies are provided.
7th Annual Walk Away Homelessness Event on April 9, 2016

Family Promise Metrowest will have its 7th annual walkathon for raising funds. Our church will again have a team, CLC Walkers, participating.

Audrey Colson is the team captain of CLC Walkers.

We want as many people participating as possible in this wonderful event. Please consider several options:

- Register to be a walker and raise funds through your network of friends, relatives and co-workers.
- Sponsor a walker on the team. You can visit the website, familypromisemetrowest.org and follow the links for the Walk Away Homelessness event.
- Register to be a virtual walker. If you have a conflict on that day, raise funds through your network of friends, relatives and co-workers without walking on the day of the event.
- Help out at the event. Contact Carol Virshbo.
- Keep the CLC Walkers, other walkers and Family Promise Metrowest in your prayers.

Event date is Saturday, April 9 at the Natick Common. We will walk from the common to the high school and back. Other fun activity on the common for the community event.

Website for information, registration and donations: Familypromisemetrowest.org

I hope you will be part of the CLC Walkers team! Audrey

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We keep in prayer our members and friends with long-term needs:

Andrew Chin  
Steven Chin  
Sara Dale  
Barbara Fitzpatrick  
Sue and Harland Gilbert  
Nancy and Russ Golly  
Bob Grout  
Arthur Hurst  
Richard Hurst  
Skip Hurst  
Lisa Kane  
Chui Yuk Lee  
Steve McKee  
Jon Nelson  
Barbara Peterson  
Rebecca Ortelli  
Nadia Salerno  
Lauren Stevens  
Jay Wechsler  
Dorothy Whitlock  
Jake Vittands
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<tr>
<th>Day of the Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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For most up-to-date calendar information view online at: http://www.christlutheran.org/calendar/

Christ Lutheran Calendar - Month of March 2016
## ASSISTING LIST FOR MARCH 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Liturgical Day or Setting</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Greeter/Usher</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
<th>Kids Celebrate</th>
<th>Deacon</th>
<th>Reader</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 6th</td>
<td>4th Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Eck/Ripp Family</td>
<td>Fiona Ripp</td>
<td>Mary Rosen</td>
<td>Joyce Simon</td>
<td>Harold Lohr</td>
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<td>5th Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Julia Pearson</td>
<td>Travis Knowlton</td>
<td>Lisa Chan</td>
<td>Phil Roberts</td>
<td>Amy Lousarian</td>
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<td>March 20th</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Harry Seaholm</td>
<td>Anna Carlson</td>
<td>Lisa Eck</td>
<td>George Hall</td>
<td>Ass’t’d Readers</td>
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<td>March 24th</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Martha Anne Hartman</td>
<td>Anders Carlson</td>
<td>Carol Virshbo</td>
<td>Martha Cronin</td>
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<td>Nadia Salerno</td>
<td>Andrew Avalos</td>
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<td>March 25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ruth Colson</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Joyce Simon</td>
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<td>March 26th</td>
<td>Vigil of Easter</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Patricia &amp; Deb Bianco</td>
<td>Kayla Canning</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Ass’t’d Readers</td>
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<td>Emma Canning</td>
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<td>Easter Day: Early Service</td>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Sandy Smith</td>
<td>Justin Rosen</td>
<td>Cathy Gallagher</td>
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<td>Anders Carlson</td>
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<td>Edie Lohr</td>
<td>Alexandria White</td>
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<td>Easter Day: Late Service</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Bathen-White Family</td>
<td>Isaac Ripp</td>
<td>David Ripp</td>
<td>Russell Pollard</td>
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<td>Fiona Ripp</td>
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<td>Carol Virshbo</td>
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<td>Ellen Zagajeski</td>
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<th>Coffee Host</th>
<th>Altar Guild</th>
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<td>Rev. Richard &amp;</td>
<td>Cathy Gallagher</td>
<td>Neal Fitzpatrick</td>
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<td>Robin Hurst</td>
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<td>Hannah Kinney</td>
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<td>Russ &amp; Mary Pollard</td>
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<td>Marianne Swenson</td>
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<td>Ellen Zagajeski</td>
<td>Hilding Hedberg</td>
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<td>Kathy Shepard</td>
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<td>Ross Petot</td>
<td>Scott Carlson</td>
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<td>March 24th</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Cathy Gallagher</td>
<td>Edie Lohr</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anders Carlson</td>
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<td>Ellen Zagajeski</td>
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<td>March 25th</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Edie Lohr</td>
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<td>Ellen Zagajeski</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26th</td>
<td>Vigil of Easter</td>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Celeste Larson</td>
<td>Joyce Simon</td>
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<td>Jeff Kinney</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Phil Roberts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27th</td>
<td>Easter Day: Early Service</td>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Judy Precious</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alan Avalos</td>
<td>Kayla Canning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Audrey Colson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Day: Late Service</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Lisa Chan</td>
<td>Doris Brand</td>
<td>Frank Miller</td>
<td>Jerry Precious</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carol Virshbo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Whitlock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3rd</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Easter</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Audrey Colson</td>
<td>Loraine Marthinsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>George Hall</td>
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</table>
Dear Friends:

We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for our family. We, like many, have encountered some significant challenges in the last couple years. Your presence and prayers have been with us throughout these difficult times. Now, during our latest challenge you once again surrounded us with love and support that cannot be measured.

These trials remind us just how extremely blessed we are. We have resources, we have our family and we are surrounded by a community of people who love and care for us. As we take this opportunity to thank God for your presence in our lives, we also pray that everyone who endures such challenges could also be so blessed as to be surrounded by such a community. Every day we thank God for you.

In Christ’s peace, Jeff and Julia Pearson

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful children in the Musical Journey Through Lent program for the beautiful Easter cards and prayer scarves. The recipients will treasure them. Thank you to Kim Petot for organizing the project, to Audrey Colson for knitting the panels, and to everyone who helped. The bright colors will bring a ray of God's love into the lives of those who really need it. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!

Janice Laakko and the Visitation Ministry Team
1 We remember in our prayers, especially during spring, congregations and communities subject to severe weather and flooding, that God will guide their emergency preparations, equip them to care for their neighbors and grant them safety.

2 We give thanks for the more than $15 million raised during the ELCA Malaria Campaign and ask God to strengthen and bless the continuing successful efforts of our partners and their health-related projects.

3 In our Lenten reflections, we are keenly aware of our many troubles, sins and shortcomings, yet we rejoice in God’s forgiveness and love that surrounds and upholds us day and night.

4 We remember in our prayers the Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries as they begin the process of creating a unified school of theology for preparing Christian leaders for the church and world.

5 We pray for God’s blessings on the critical work in HIV and AIDS ministry that Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade are doing in Nigeria as ELCA missionaries.

6 We remember in our prayers, with thanksgiving and relief, that God seeks us when we are lost or have strayed and celebrates our awkward return as did the father in Jesus’ parable of the lost son.

7 We have many brothers and sisters – of all ages – who live with physical and cognitive disabilities. We ask God to broaden our awareness of, and appreciation for, the faith and diverse gifts they bring to our communities and to the body of Christ.

8 We pray on this International Women’s Day that God’s holy and life-giving Spirit moves every human heart, that the barriers dividing us may crumble and hatreds cease so we might live in justice and peace.

9 As we continue our self-reflection during Lent, we ask God to help us look beyond ourselves and into the lives of people around us and in other nations, guiding us to actions of care and justice in the manner and name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and servant.

10 We remember in our prayers the work and faithful witness of the Rev. Dorcas Wang, an ELCA missionary serving in the Republic of China.

11 We ask God to bless and inspire Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s leadership, especially in helping our church address the issues of racism, racial disparity in the criminal justice system, care for the incarcerated and their families, advocacy for those wrongly convicted, and support and guidance for those who enforce the law and work in the justice system.

12 We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and guide the work of the seven young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Argentina and Uruguay.

13 In our baptism, we experience the freedom that can only come through the power of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection. For this undeserved gift of love, we give thanks.

14 We give thanks to God for the generous grant the ELCA has received from the Lilly Endowment to help fund an initiative to address the financial and economic struggles that often prevent pastors from leading congregations effectively.

15 We remember in our prayers all those who support and empower international women leaders in the life and development of this church and our communities. We pray to be awakened to the power and capacity our sisters have in transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.
Whether gathered for a Lenten meal or worship, we pray that our thoughts and reflections will be on Jesus and that we will trust and follow Jesus no matter where he leads or how difficult the journey.

On this St. Patrick’s Day, we give thanks to God for our brothers and sisters who respond to God’s call to serve as missionaries in the world. We ask God to fill them with love and respect for the people and communities they serve and with a tireless enthusiasm to share the gospel.

The prayerful words of the psalmist in ancient times still holds meaning for our prayers today – “Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

We remember in our prayers the leaders in our congregations – rostered and lay – who commit themselves to sharing the gospel, deepening our faith, and equipping and sending us to do God’s work in the world.

Palm Sunday  Christ defies our images of him as a conquering king, powerful religious leader or just another prophet. We pray that we receive, by faith, Jesus as our Savior, messiah, servant and son of God – the fulfillment of God’s loving promises to us.

Monday of Holy Week  Mary of Bethany was extravagant in her love for Jesus and her anointing of him before his death. We pray that we too may not be shy or embarrassed in our witness and worship, especially in telling others of Jesus’ life, suffering, death and resurrection for our sake.

We remember in our prayers the ELCA International Women Leaders scholarship recipients Abby Lai, Elisa Pérez-Trejo, Lynette Lee, Melissa Neo, Sarah Abendanon and Sthela Hanitrinirina, that God will bless them and guide and inspire their studies.

We ask God to grant us daily strength and courage to speak of our faith and act as the gospel urges us and to resist the temptation to stay quiet or hide the light of Jesus Christ.

Maundy Thursday  It’s difficult to be humble and serve people in this day and age, especially in a society that belittles such behaviors as signs of weakness. We ask God to remind us of Jesus’ example when he washed the feet of his disciples and embolden us to do likewise for our neighbors and those in need.

Good Friday  Again faced with the story of Jesus’ betrayal, judgment, suffering, torture and disgraceful public death, we humble ourselves before God and plead for forgiveness, asking that God reassure us of Jesus’ boundless, sacrificial love for all humanity.

Vigil of Easter  We confess our times of disbelief and uncertain faith in Jesus and ask God to embolden us as witnesses – imperfect as we are – to run and share, as Mary Magdalene did, the good news of Jesus Christ in whom we have forgiveness and new life.

Easter Day  Christ is risen! We rejoice and ask God’s Spirit to dispel our doubts, fears and suspicions and fill us with faith and amazement over God’s miraculous love for us.

This day and every day, we offer prayers of wonder and praise for the presence of God in our lives, especially when we least expect it or doubt God’s power and creativity to effect change in our lives and world.

We remember in our prayers and ask God to bless and further the leadership development work of the Rev. Chad and Natalie Rimmer, ELCA missionaries in Senegal.

We give thanks for the poets of the church who speak from their heart, spirit and life experiences and inspire our faith and imagination through creative means.

We remember on this day when some states celebrate Cesar Chavez Day, the leaders, advocates and activists who are moved to work for the wellbeing and just treatment of all people, especially those who labor under difficult conditions and whose voices are often neglected.
Upcoming Events

March 7   Book Group
March 20  Palm/Passion Sunday
March 24  Maundy Thursday
March 25  Good Friday
March 26  Great Vigil of Easter
March 27  Easter Sunday
April 9   7th Annual Walk Away Homelessness

The April Reporter deadline is MARCH 20, 2016.