

April 2020

A Publication of Christ Lutheran Church 113 Union Street Natick, MA 01760

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Christ Lutheran Church REPORTER

Most years, this page would include a schedule of liturgies for Holy Week and Easter at Christ Lutheran Church. Here, instead, is the schedule of observances you will find on our website to assist in your domestic observation of these sacred days. You should also receive a "care packet" to accompany your home devotions.

Palm/Passion Sunday:

Plan to join Zoom worship at about 9:50, when pre-service music will begin.

During "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," wave your palm branch. It will be great to see our siblings in Christ participating in this familiar rite!

Next will come the Prayer of the Day, a reading, a homily, more music and prayers.

You'll have an opportunity to add your prayer petitions using Zoom's "chat" function, before we close with "There in God's Garden."

"Anytime" throughout the week:

Watch our website for a meditation on the Stations of the Cross: A musical commentary or poem will follow each of the Eight biblically based Stations of the Cross.



Maundy Thursday:

There are normally several key elements to this liturgy: individual absolution with laying on of hands, footwashing, Holy Communion, and the stripping of the altar. There will be a video on our website depicting some of our members washing the feet of family members, and if you have a family member at home with you, you might consider this intimate act of mutual servanthood, too. The video will also include the chanting of Psalm 88, which we usually hear during the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday:

The video for Good Friday will include the Prayer of the Day, and the Passion Reading from St. John, with musical interludes, as well as the chanting of the Solemn Reproaches.

Easter Vigil:

The Easter Vigil normally include four primary parts: the lighting of the New Fire, readings of salvation stories from the Hebrew Scriptures, Baptism or Baptismal remembrance, and Holy Communion. While we won't pretend that we can do this in our separate places, the video for this day will include a fire in CLC's fire bowl. Light the candle included in this packet at home!

It will also include some evocative readings appointed for this night, as well as a Gospel reading, homily, and music.

Easter Sunday:

Plan to join Zoom worship at about 9:50 for pre-service music. A hymn fest will be a part of our celebration of Jesus' victory over death.



Ascentria Care Alliance has an immediate need for 2,000 masks for our workers in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. In addition, we are facing critical shortages of non-contact thermometers, disposable gowns and gloves, disinfecting products and hand sanitizer.

Here is how we can help. Whether you can make masks, or provide some of the other safety items, our partners at Ascentria would be very grateful. Below are several examples of DIY masks patterns that are being used across the country:

MasksNOW.org

- PDF Patterns at https://masksnow.org/patterns
- YouTube Video Tutorial at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0HnaWUIyzg
- PDF Patterns at https://jennifermaker.com/face-mask-patterns-cricut/
- YouTube Instructional Video at https://youtu.be/rD6bnzKTkcc

Please contact Pr. Bourret or Jeff Kinney if you are able to contribute. Thank you!



Pastor's Page

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
⁴and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 13, NRSV

This year's is a Lenten journey unlike any I, or, I'd venture, any of us, have experienced.

At the start of Lent many of us voluntarily forego something pleasurable, such as sweets or alcohol, meat or social media, with the understanding that the fast will last 40 days. Such a season of self-denial may help us to remember with thanksgiving Jesus' faithfulness after 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. It may put the joyous celebration of Easter into sweet relief. It even holds out the possibility of a more fundamental shift—a forty-day dis-orientation that opens the way to a re-orientation of our lives.

This year the novel coronavirus has accomplished something that pastors can only dream of, leading one and all, irrespective of inclination or piety, into a fast of sorts—into the wilderness of social isolation, economic upturn, and even encounters with our mortality. The virus has us eating in, driving less, and seeing a whole lot more not only of the other members of our households (or our selves), but also of the precarious, often dire, conditions under which so many of our fellows live.

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann has observed that the psalms may be categorized in three principal ways, speaking to the human condition under three kinds of circumstances. The most cheerful psalms, those that extol the beauty of creation, the wisdom of God, the abundance of harvests and gladness in righteousness he calls psalms of orientation. These psalms give words to our joy when all is right with the world, or at least our little corner of it. Psalms such as these sound a little like Palm Sunday, when we welcome Jesus' procession into Jerusalem, confident in our conquering hero.

Psalms of disorientation were written for times like these—for periods when in our personal or communal life we have been led into the desert, when our lives have been upended, and we are ill at lease, anxious, questioning, and even despairing of God's goodness and loving kindness—when we yearn for answers, and struggle to find solid ground.

We are wandering through an international COVID-19 wilderness, without any assurance that we will walk out of it in 40 days. It is a harsh and unwelcome Lent—a dislocation—a disequilibrium.

The psalms of disorientation speak to this unsolicited condition, and they speak another truth to us: that there is no pretending that we can rent a Ryder truck and re-locate ourselves—that we can restore our own equilibrium. There is no gain in trying to navigate our way out of the wilderness; we must sit, for a time, in our discomfort. We are left somewhere between Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday, with Jesus dead in the tomb.

But God did not leave Jesus there, and God will not leave us in this condition, either. In the psalms that Brueggemann classifies as psalms of reorientation, there finally comes, not a restoration of what was, but a decidedly new way of being—a new creation—a changed reality—by God's initiative, God's mercy. Easter is no re-make of Palm Sunday, and the resurrected Christ is not at all the mighty warrior he was thought to be, but the one who begins his reign on the cross by forgiving his betrayers and killers, the One who conquers death by submitting to it.

We are yet in the COVID-10 wilderness, uncertain, antsy, fearful. But as we wait, sometime between Maundy Thursday and Easter morning, faith that God does bring us through the wilderness, faith that Jesus rises from the grave, invites us to imagine what new reality God might bring from this pandemic—what changed priorities might emerge, what lasting conversions of our attitudes around the world we inhabit—the precious and imperiled planet and all is inhabitants—what new economic structures might be configured, what new habits toward our loved ones, our neighbors? By God's grace, might we be re-formed by our strange Lenten pilgrimage?

8Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, 9who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. 10For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. 11You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; 12you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. 13I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, 14those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. 15I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Psalm 66:8-15 (NRSV)

Peace in Christ.

Pastor Rebecca Bourret

Update from the Finance and Property Committee

Long-Range Planning. As was reported at the semi-annual meeting, the finance and property committee has begun work to develop a plan for improvements in the fellowship hall to improve storage, lighting and acoustics, and to replace the choir loft railing to improve sight lines and comply with the current building code. The FPC will report further as plans are developed.

Financial Results. For the first two months of 2020, we are on sound financial footing because a few families have contributed their full annual contribution as a single gift. During this period of suspension of service, we thank those who have been sending their envelopes to the church (113 Union Street, Natick, MA 01760). And as a reminder, this is also an ideal time to consider signing up for Simply Giving. The form to do so is attached to the Reporter. The completed form should be mailed to Edie Lohr at 47 Brook Lane, Berlin, MA 01503. We thank the congregation for its faithful financial stewardship and encourage a continuation of that faithful stewardship to assure that we can balance our budget for the entire year.

A message from the Stewardship Committee:

With the suspension of church services, we no longer receive contributions in the collection plate each Sunday. We do not know how much longer this suspension will extend. For those who contribute with envelopes, please consider mailing them to the church at 113 Union Street, Natick, MA 01760. This is also an ideal time to consider signing up for Simply Giving. The form to do so is included in this Reporter. The completed form should be mailed to Edie Lohr at 47 Brook Lane, Berlin, MA 01503.

Many thanks to all who have sent in contributions while we are unable to gather for worship! Your faithfulness and generosity in the midst of this pandemic is truly inspiring, and will spare our Finance and Property Committee anxiety over our financial obligations.



A simple choice; a generous response

The Simply Giving® Program
Through Simply Giving®, your offerings or tuition payments are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic donation - weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly - the option is yours. Note: The date the monthly tuition payment is transferred from your account to the school account is predetermined by the school. Your donation or payment is deposited into the recipient's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

Benefits to you and...

Your Congregation

Simply Giving® is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your donations through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your donation is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. But you're not the only one that benefits. Your congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.

Your School

This program is also a convenient way to pay tuition at a Lutheran school. Simply Giving® provides an easy, no-cost way for the school to collect tuition, and allows the school to benefit from consistent cash flow. Your tuition payments are made to the school through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account and deposited on the same day into the school's bank account.

Your Favorite Lutheran Institution

You can also make convenient contributions to other Lutheran institutions through the Simply Giving® program. Because of your planned giving and ongoing stewardship, the institution you support benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year. This helps the institution to better meet its financial goals and development objectives.

Why does Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offer the Simply Giving® program?

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers Simply Giving® to further its mission of serving Lutheran congregations and institutions.

Who do I call if I have more questions about the Simply Giving® program?

Contact the institution benefiting from your giving. Your Thrivent Financial representative may also be able to answer your questions.

How do I cancel or change my authorization?

Contact the institution benefiting from your giving.

How do I participate?

First make sure the institution you wish to benefit is enrolled in Simply Giving®. Then complete the form on the reverse side and return it to the congregation or institution that will benefit from your giving.

ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Using black ink, complete the personal information section including name, address and telephone numbers
- Indicate whether this is a new enrollment/authorization, a change in amount, or a change in bank account.
- Indicate the account type, routing number and account number. Attach a voided check or savings deposit slip to the enrollment form for a new enrollment or change in bank account.
- Sign and date the Account Holder Signature section.
- Complete the appropriate section with the institution name and address that will benefit from your giving.

For Your Lutheran Congregation Offering:

- Designate which fund(s) your donation should go to and the amount.
- Select the frequency of your offering.

For Your Lutheran School Tuition:

- Calculate the amount of each monthly tuition payment.
- Determine the date of your first and last payment.

For Your Lutheran Institution Donation:

- Select the date of the monthly donation transfer and the amount of each monthly donation.
- Determine the date of your first and last donation.
- Return the completed enrollment form to the Lutheran congregation, school or institution benefiting from your giving.

PRIVACY / CONFIDENTIALITY: The Authorization Form on the back is seen by the nonprofit Lutheran organizations enrolled in Simply Giving® as well as by the Vanco Services employees who process it. In addition, participant name and address information may be provided to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Participant information will not be shared with any other organizations.

See reverse side for Authorization Form.





Member Enrollment and Authorization Form

Return completed enrollment form to the Lutheran congregation, school, or institution benefiting from your giving.

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Complete this section for ALL ENROLLMENTS (Please print in black ink)									
Check the appropriate box:	Last Name			First Name	M.I.				
☐ New enrollment/authorization *	Mailing Address				*				
☐ Change in bank account *	City			State	Zip				
☐ Change in authorized amount	Home Telephone #			Work Telephone #					
Donations/payments should be taken fro	m:	REQUI	IRED:						
			I authorize Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Vanco Services, LLC to automatically withdraw donations/payments from my account. I have attached						
		a voide	voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I						
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Routing Number give According # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3		Accour	ccount Holder Signature						
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Evangelism/Outreach			☐ Semi-monthly (transferred on 1 st and 15 th of each month)						
\$			☐ Monthly on the 1 st						
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TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT \$ (minimum \$5)			Date of First Donation						
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Walkers page at:



https://familypromisemetrowest.salsalabs.org/2020walktoendhomelessness/t/clcwalkers/index.html

Although we have exceeded our goal of \$6000 by far and we are currently the number 1 fund raising team, FPM is accepting donations through April 15th. Yu can also mail your check to Family Promise Metrowest, 6 Mulligan St, Natick MA 01760. Please note that your gift should go the the CLC Walkers.

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the Campaign for Hope through the CLC

Currently FPM is serving 23 families with 27 adults and 46 children in our programs and case managers are collecting data on their emerging needs in order to address their individual challenges. In the process, we are learning how support from Family Promise is bringing calm and hope to our families. We know that lower income families are being hit hardest right now with job and wage loss. We also know that we will likely be receiving many more calls in the coming weeks from families looking for help with their housing. We want to be able to respond to this need. Our shelter families are staying in a local hotel in order to keep them as well as all of our volunteers at the congregations safe. This is an additional \$11,000 per month that was obviously not budgeted.

Thanks again for the amazing support of Christ Lutheran Church and their friends and families.

Altar Guild Schedule April – June, 2020

Worship from April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday through May 3, the 4th Sunday of Easter, will be Zoom worship at 10:00.

Tentative Return to Worship in the Nave Sunday, May 10

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DATE	PERSONS	LITURGICAL DAY/SEASON	COLOR	SERVICE	TIME	COM- MENTS
May 10, 2020	Phil Roberts, Robin Hurst	Sth Sunday of Easter	Gold/White	Holy Commun- ion	10:00 a.m. B	
May 17, 2020	Phil Roberts, Robin Hurst	6th Sunday of Easter	Gold/White	Holy Commun- ion	10:00 a.m. B	
May 24, 2020	Carol Virshbo, Edie Lohr	^{7th} Sunday of Easter	Gold/White	Holy Commun- ion	10:00 a.m. B	
May 31, 2020	Carol Virshbo, Edie Lohr	Day of Pente- cost	Bright Red	Holy Commun- ion	10:00 a.m. B	
June 7, 2020	Ellen Zagajeski, Judy Precious	Trinity	White	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m. B	
June 14, 2020	Ellen Zagajeski, Judy Precious	2 nd Sunday of Pentecost	Green	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m. B	
June 21, 2020	Pamela Witcher, Dorothy Nail	3 rd Sunday of Pentecost	Green	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m. B	
June 28, 2020	Pamela Witcher, Dorothy Nail	4 th Sunday of Pentecost	Green	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m. B	
July 5, 2020	Mary Avalos, Joyce Simon	5 th Sunday of Pentecost	Green	Holy Commun- ion	10:00 a.m. B	

Neighbor to Neighbor

Again, last Saturday, Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network (MISN) distributed food to neighbors in need. This time we provided groceries for 142 families in Framingham and Milford. These are families who may be reluctant or unable to access government help due to their immigration status.



Food was donated by volunteers or purchased in bulk by MISN. MISN is now planning to distribute food to neighbors on a regular basis, since there is a clear need as demonstrated by the response. We recognize that in this unprecedented time there are many worthy organizations that deserve our support. If you would like to make a donation of food or money for the next MISN food distribution, contact Celeste and Rolf Larson at racslarson@verizon.net or donate directly to MISN online using this link:

http://fnd.us/e1dlN3?ref=sh_3800Wc

APRIL 2020 PRAYER VENTURES

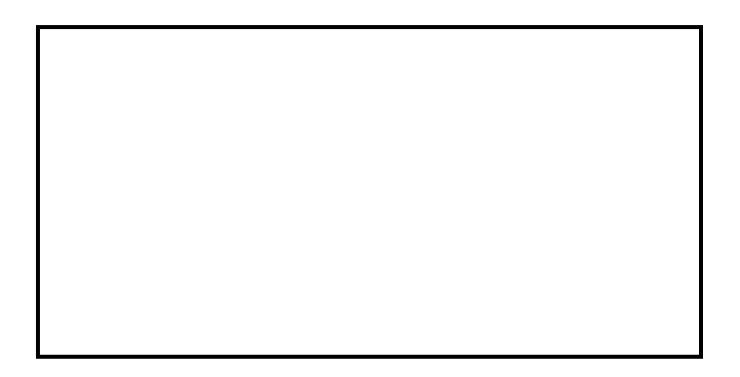


Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

- **1** Give thanks for laughter, smiles, joy and humor today! Praise God for humor that lifts our spirits and provides us an unexpected doorway to reflect on social issues that are difficult to ponder or discuss.
- **2** Pray for God's blessings upon the ELCA's Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, which serve our neighbors and strengthen the church through evangelical outreach, advocacy, social ministry, ecumenical and interfaith relations, leadership development and affirming the dignity and worth of Arab and Middle Eastern people and their cultures.
- **3** The season of Lent can seem dark, muted and immersed in thoughts of our human weaknesses and failings. But along the way, remember to give thanks for the good news and hope found in our journey to the cross and in the life-giving miracle of Jesus' resurrection.
- **4** Give thanks for bishops, staff, volunteers and leaders who serve in our synods across the country. Pray that the Spirit will strengthen and encourage them for service in the diverse contexts to which God has called them.
- **5** Palm Sunday Some people describe our times as post-Christian, an era in which Christ has little meaning, influence or relevance. Pray for the Spirit to be present and diligent in our lives and in the world, rekindling faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God, our Savior, the light and hope for humankind that holds true throughout time and changing cultures.
- **6** "How precious is your steadfast love, O God!" Give thanks and praise for God's love and mercy washing over us and providing us refuge.
- **7** Pray that we will be guided by the spirit, manner and example of Jesus to be humble and gracious in our faith, service and lives.
- **8** Total Inclusion! Widening the Welcome at ELCA Outdoor Ministries is a collaboration between the ELCA churchwide organization and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, the association of camps and retreat centers affiliated with the ELCA. Pray that this new program will equip and empower outdoor ministry organizations and leaders as they move toward more intentional welcome of people who historically have been marginalized in the church and society especially people of color, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- **9** Remember in prayer all who despair, suffer or long for liberation, love and redemption.
- **10** Good Friday As we tell and retell the story of Jesus' life, suffering, death and resurrection, pray that we will see the cross as a vivid symbol and reminder of God's amazing love for us, a life-giving gift given to us in Jesus Christ that is meant to be shared through words, actions and imagery that inspire faith today.
- **11** The living word of God in Jesus Christ breaks through every barrier and border, shines light wherever there is darkness and bridges every rift and difference in humankind real or imagined. Give praise and thanks to God!
- **12** Easter Sunday This is the day we eagerly anticipated, a day of celebration and joyous mystery the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Shout praise and glory to God for saving us and setting us free to live as children of God and share the good news with the world.
- **13** Give thanks for our church's long-standing commitment to global mission and faithful service alongside global companions, churches and organizations as they share the good news of Jesus Christ, care for neighbors in need, work for justice and grow the church.
- **14** Look up and all around today; notice what is good, life-giving and hope-inspiring. "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
- **15** Give thanks for the volunteers of all ages who are vital to our mission and work in the world and who share their diverse gifts, interests and abilities in congregations, volunteer corps, camps and retreat centers, ELCA Global Mission, ELCA Mission Builders, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran social ministry organizations and however else they feel called to serve.

- **16** Having received a new life and identity in Christ, we ask God to help us recognize and focus on what God considers to be important, good and true.
- 17 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries serving alongside the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic in ministries of education, leadership development and parish life.
- **18** Give thanks for our church's history of hospitality and concern for refugees and immigrants. Pray for the 60 million displaced people in the world and ask God to equip and embolden us to advocate on their behalf and welcome them, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Lutheran World Federation and companion churches in other countries.
- **19** Earth Day Sunday Praise God for this wondrous creation! Give thanks for how our church embraces our responsibility to care for God's creation through stewardship, education, advocacy and urging one another to take personal and institutional responsibility. Pray that the partnerships and collaborations of the ELCA will produce far-reaching results through ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program, Creation Justice Ministries, Lutherans Restoring Creation and other networks focused on engaging the church and society in the care and stewardship of creation.
- **20** Ask for God's grace and forgiveness when questions and doubts undermine our joy in the good news of Jesus Christ. Give thanks that God meets our uncertainty with the same patience and love shown to the disciple Thomas when he needed reassurance that Jesus was the Son of God, the true Messiah and Savior of the world.
- **21** Pray for worship leaders gathering in Valparaiso, Ind., for the Institute of Liturgical Studies seminar "Living Breath of God: How Word Through Music Forms Us." Ask that the Holy Spirit strengthen and stir their faith, wisdom and creativity as they reflect on questions around the theology and practice of music in our worshiping communities.
- **22** Earth Day Rejoice in God's astonishing handiwork of creation; praise God's life-giving power and might revealed in the smallest microbe and the infinite mysteries of the universe. Pray that we will demonstrate wisdom, appreciation and respect for nature and all that God has entrusted to our care and use.
- 23 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.
- **24** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Alaska and Minneapolis Area synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.
- 25 Give thanks that God is our ever-present refuge, counsel, comfort and joy.
- **26** Pray that we will recognize the presence of Jesus in our daily lives at home, at work, at church, in relationships, during leisure time and in our travels and encounters with strangers.
- **27** Give thanks for the witness and work of Alberto (Gustavo) Driau, regional representative for Argentina and Uruguay; Rachel Ringlaben, YAGM country coordinator; and the seven volunteers serving alongside our companions in Argentina and Uruguay as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission program.
- **28** Ask God to stir our generosity for supporting the ministries and witness of our congregations, synods and churchwide organization.
- **29** Pray that we will find words to share our faith in Jesus Christ and our understanding of Scripture with one another and the world, while also trusting that the Holy Spirit works to deepen our faith and enrich our knowledge of God's word and ways.
- **30** Ask God to help us see and attend to people who are unseen, forgotten, underserved or ignored in our congregations, communities and society elders who are homebound; people who are quiet, incarcerated, homeless or mentally ill; and people living in shelters, care facilities and group homes.



The May Reporter deadline is APRIL20, 2020



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