

WEEKLY NEWS ~~ APRIL 8, 2022



FROM THE PASTOR

We're reaching the end of our journey through Lent. On Sunday we enter Holy Week with Palm/Passion Sunday where we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but also hear the story of the following days leading up to his death on the cross. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are known as "The Three Days" or the *triduum*. The Three Days are made up of one continuous time of worship. Maundy Thursday begins this time of worship with remembering the Last Supper, the washing of feet, and the stripping of the altar. We leave Maundy Thursday worship in silence and without a sending. We gather again on Good Friday, picking up, in silence, where we left off on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross, and depart, again, without a sending or ending of worship. Some communities hold vigil on Saturday, waiting through the night, for the light of Christ to break forth on Easter.

It is hard for us to dwell in these days overshadowed by death. We'd rather skip from Palm Sunday's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to Easter when the tomb has broken open. I encourage all of us to pause a little longer this Holy Week, reflecting on the devastation and grief rather than jumping to the brilliance of Easter so quickly. Without the cross, there is no resurrection. The cross is painful. The world is painful. We have endured over two years of a global pandemic. We have all experienced someone deeply affected by Covid-19. Our lives have changed. We watch the news and feel helpless as civilians are killed in Ukraine. We struggle to understand the hatred in the world, the racism and senseless killing of Black bodies. And we wrestle with the reality of our own complicity in these systems of violence.

I know. It's hard. It feels as if we cannot take on one more sad or troubling thing. It seems as if our bodies cannot handle any more trauma. But God invites us to lean into this Holy Week. God does not abandon you there, but carries you through, sees you through the night into the resurrection hope on Easter. We huddle in the night, in the shadow of the cross. Because we know the outcome of the story, the temptation is to jump straight to the end. But in doing so, we miss the depth and power of The Three Days that give Easter its meaning, light, and opportunity for celebration.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Alyssa

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Worship	6:00 pm
Good Friday Worship	6:00 pm
Easter Sunday Worship:	
Sunrise at Sunset Bay State Park beach	6:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt for Kids	9:15 am
Gloria Dei Sanctuary	10:00 am
Coffee/Fellowship Time outside after the service	

READERS, GREETERS, AND USHERS NEEDED!

With Holy Week upon us and In-Person worship happening, we need some help! We need a reader and two ushers for the Maundy Thursday service, April 14, and four readers for Good Friday, April 15. If we have people who would like to serve as greeters at those services, we welcome them, as well!

OFFICE PUBLICATION DEADLINES

As we continue to worship in person and return to in-person activities, there are adjustments being made in bulletins and other communication pieces that are developed in the office. Going forward, announcements for the following Sunday's bulletin must be to the office no later than 9 am Tuesday morning. Items for the Weekly News need to be to the office by noon on Thursdays, and Newsletter articles/submissions need to be in by 9 am on the 23rd of each month.

MASTER CALENDAR

There is a new Master Calendar in the office! It is for tracking ALL the activities that occur in the building at Gloria Dei (and off-site activities, too!) Please let the office know if you are going to be using the building for any reason so the calendar is correct. We want to avoid double-booking. According to Pastor Alyssa, ONLY Barbara is allowed to write on the calendar!

OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office is scheduled to be closed on Good Friday, April 15, 2022.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service returns this year! 6:30 am at Sunset Bay State Park beach. Look for the bonfire!



REQUEST FOR LABYRINTH

Susan Paterson is requesting ground cover for the labyrinth. She would like low growing plants. There is plenty of moss, so no more moss is needed. Please contact Susan if you have questions, or bring your plants to the church and they will be held here for Susan to plant. Thank you!

CARDS AND NOTES

We received many Christmas cards and notes that are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please take a look to catch up with those who have moved away!

ATTENTION KNITTERS!

We are meeting and knitting in person again! The meeting day and time has changed. The knitters now meet on Wednesdays at 1 pm. Please contact Karen Johnston or Stephanie Greim with questions. Masks and social distancing will still be required.

SOUTH COAST HOSPICE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Their patients need some company! Volunteers must be 18 or older. Training will be offered later in the year. Please call Amy Basil, Volunteer Manager, at 541-297-0035 to learn more.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH!

Gloria Dei is happy to join the community in raising awareness and helping prevent child abuse by placing a garden of pinwheel flowers on our property. The pinwheels support the Kid's Hope Center, which is located just down the road.

FLORAL CROSS FOR EASTER!

We will once again be decorating our floral cross on Easter Sunday morning, so please bring any flowers you might have blooming in your yard to add to our cross!

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR KIDS!

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children at 9:15 am on Easter Sunday. The Egg Hunt will be at the outside church. Bring your kids and a basket so they can have fun looking for eggs!

LOST AND FOUND

A red jacket was left at Lucy Johnson's house. It is now hanging in the Narthex at church. Please take a look if you've visited Lucy and may have left a jacket at her house!

Christ in Our Home for April - May - June is now available on the table in the Narthex!

CAMP LUTHERWOOD NEWS

Camp Lutherwood is having Work Days on May 7 and June 4 from 10am to 3pm.
Lunch is provided.

Contact the camp office at **541-998-6444** or office@lutherwoodoregon.org to RSVP!

Registration is also open for Summer Camp! [Find your camp and register today!](#)

SYNOD NEWS

The Synod provides a great deal of news and information about a variety of topics, events, educational opportunities, etc. Opportunities like a Lunch & Learn series about refugees here in the Pacific Northwest, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, and links to learn more about the Lutheran response to the crisis in Ukraine, for example. The office got an entire email around Earth Day topics! To receive the Synod mailings, please go to:

<http://oregonsynod.org/index.php/oregon-synod-email-subscription/>

Meanwhile, if you'd like the Earth Day (or a regular Synod) email that already came, please let me know and I'll forward them to you. Here's a sample of what the Synod sends:

Lunch and Learn Series: Refugees Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Interested in learning more about refugee resettlement in the Portland area and the wraparound services that LCSNW provides for refugee and immigrant communities? Join a Lunch and Learn series on zoom, featuring staff and clients in their Multicultural Community Services program. Click the title to register.

April 13, 12-1 pm: [What else happens at LCSNW Portland?](#)

Accompaniment in a time of crisis. [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) is accompanying companion churches and partners in their efforts to provide support, supplies and care to people affected by the war in Ukraine. In a message, [Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton](#) said: "In this time of crisis, we accompany our partners with concrete support for their humanitarian efforts through Lutheran Disaster Response." [Read the article](#) in Living Lutheran.

[Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) is an annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists. The theme for EAD 2022, "Fierce Urgency: Advancing Civil & Human Rights," calls us into solidarity to restore, protect, and expand voting rights in the United States and to realize human rights around the world. As people of faith, we know each person to be created in God's image, imbued with dignity and having a voice that demands to be heard, heeded, and treated justly. **There are several ELCA scholarships available for this virtual event; apply before March 31.** The ELCA as an EAD sponsor. [Learn more here.](#)



STEWARDSHIP IS...recycling batteries!

Alkaline batteries can be recycled at Coos Head Food Co-Op, on 2nd Street in Coos Bay.