

The Messenger



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MARCH
2024



In this issue

1. Pastor's message
2. Pastor's message continued
3. Church Council
4. Lenten Paintings
5. Maundy Thursday
6. Thank you; March Celebrations
7. Council Installation
8. St. Patrick's Day
9. Scripture Calendar
10. Calendar
11. Holy Week Info

It Changed the World!

It Just Might Change You and Me?

You need not be a Christian, nor even believe that God exists, to agree that the first Holy Week changed the world. Jesus of Nazareth entered Jerusalem at the time of **Passover. He gave his disciples a meal they called "The Lord's Supper". He was arrested and sentenced to die by the Roman Governor. He was tortured and crucified. His body was buried.**

Some of his followers claimed that he rose from the dead on the third day. They said they saw him, talked with him, at one time had a breakfast with him, and this went on for some 50 days before, they said, he ascended back to heaven. They were never the same again.

After a most unusual Pentecost festival event, they felt empowered by what they said was God the Holy Spirit. They began to preach, teach, to live out their faith through acts of love and kindness that amazed others, who then wanted to know more about this Jesus. Many of the first disciples were eventually killed for telling people about Jesus.

Now just about everyone would agree with the first paragraph above. It would also be obvious that the proclamation about Jesus spread, and incredibly this small group grew so much that, almost 2000 years later, (in 2021 to be



exact), it was estimated that the world has 2.38 billion people who say **that they are Christians! Christianity is the largest “religion” in the world.** How could this happen? Christians would say it was the work of God.

The events of that first Holy Week have the power to change people, even those who are already Christians. Hardly anyone (even those who do not believe in Jesus) disputes that Jesus of Nazareth died on a cross and was buried. But, for those who believe he rose from the dead and is a living Savior today, well, that has the power to change just about everything we believe about life, about death, about how we are to live today.

Could this Holy Week change you? Could your faith deepen? Could the humility of Jesus on Maundy Thursday challenge us? Could the suffering of Jesus, for you and me and our salvation, change how we view suffering, pain, loss? Could Easter morning look brighter than a “normal day”, even if it is pouring down rain? **Could the angel’s words to the women looking for the body of Jesus, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Not here! Risen!” bring a tear, perhaps a sigh, maybe a smile?**

Once again this year during Holy Week, there are lots of other things to focus on. Some are very good things. Yet, there is one person and a **week’s worth of saving events that simply has the power to change our lives and the lives of others that we love.** It is one week out of 51 others. Could observing this week be a gift from God to you?

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Chuck



Congratulations to our newly installed council members. The installation of council members took place on February 25th during service, and we are so happy to have you all. Immediately following service, we held our first meeting of the year. I personally am looking forward to working with everyone. I am excited to see what new ideas will come about in the further building of our congregation, outreach programs, and Sunday School program. Speaking of Sunday School, we need **volunteers to help out on Sundays so that we may expand the Children's Service** to every week. Anyone who volunteers would do so on a rotating basis. If you are interested, please see Dillon and Rachel. We are in the middle of Lent and have so far had our Ash Wednesday service, and two Wednesday evening Lent services, which included a nice meal prior to service. Thank you to all who have volunteered to prepare the meals. It is greatly appreciated by all. There was a kitchen cleaning day on March 2nd. Thanks to everyone who came to help out. There are other areas in need of volunteers. Information on these needs will be forthcoming in the future. We will be having an Easter Breakfast on March 31st, at **9:15am prior to Easter Service. During the Children's service, there will be an** Easter Egg Hunt. The council has decided to celebrate birthdays on a quarterly basis, therefore, birthdays for January, February, and March will be celebrated on March 10th in the Parish Life Building following service. And, if you remembered, we turned our clocks ahead one hour. Yay!!!

Blessings to you all,

Lynn Andrews

Council President

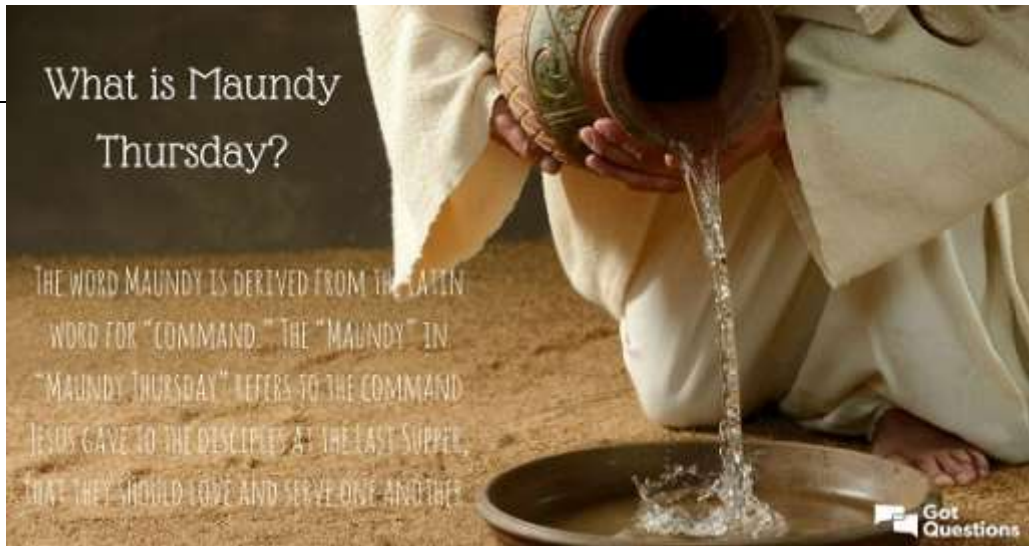
Our thanks to Rhonda Gonsalves for the beautiful art that has helped us to focus this Lenten season. **One of Rhonda's many talents...**

Pastor Chuck



The inspiration for the paintings started while I was sitting silently in prayer after communion one Sunday. I was thinking about the privilege it is to receive Jesus every week and my mind drifted to Ash Wednesday soon approaching. I thought about the ashes placed on our foreheads and remembered wanting to remove them quickly in my youth, but the instructions from my parents to leave them there as long as possible. I wondered whether there was a way to capture the image of ashes with paint on canvas so they would serve as a visual reminder of repentance throughout lent. The image popped into my mind and I transferred it to a small canvas. I shared the painting with Pastor Chuck and asked whether a larger version could be useful in the church. He loved it so much that he asked whether two larger paintings could be done, one for either side of the altar. I am honored to have had the chance to serve in this way.

Rhonda Gonsaves



Maundy Thursday

“Given and Shed for You”

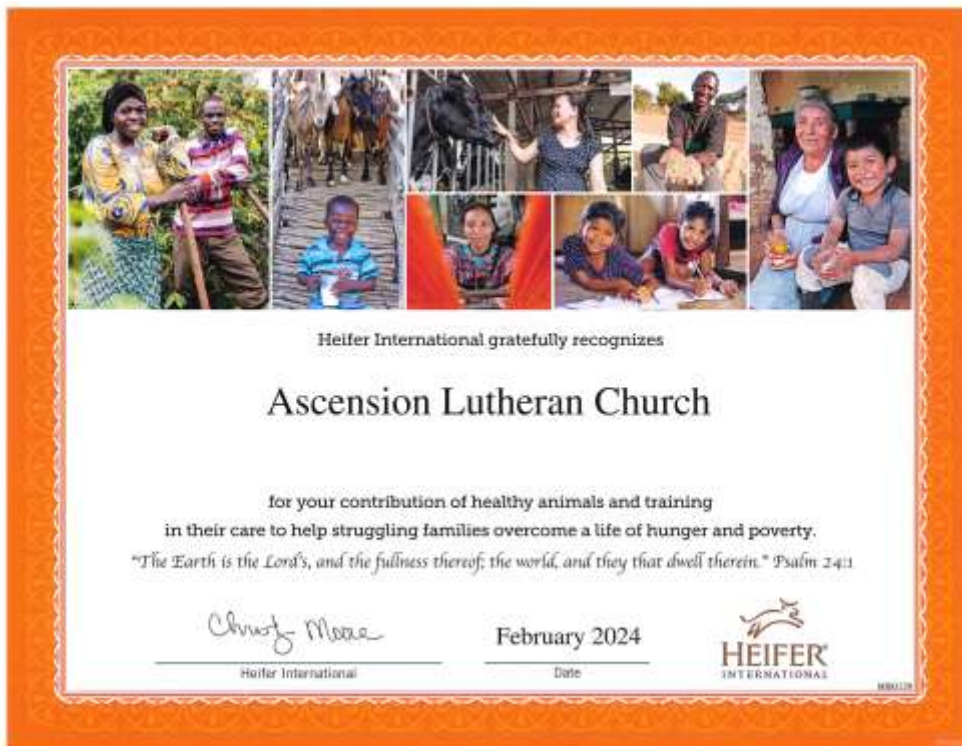
Familiar words: **Our Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed...** The Thursday of Holy Week was the night he was betrayed. You know the sentence continues with Jesus taking bread and breaking it; taking wine and passing it around the table. **“This is my body”, he said. “This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.”** Maundy Thursday is the evening when that happened.

In my experience, many Christian churches outside the Lutheran family do not have Maundy Thursday services. Sometimes the name of the day is even foreign. **(Maundy comes from the word for “command”. Jesus said, “Do this to remember me.”)** So perhaps Maundy Thursday is an evening you could invite another Christian friend, not to take them from their own congregation, but just to experience how another part of the body of Christ observes the evening.

Our service is at 6:30 pm. We will be following in Scripture some of the table conversation, as well as the events of that night. There are many themes for the evening, but I think looking at the humility of Jesus is appropriate. That is not a prized character trait in our society today. However, it certainly is one Jesus had, and that he asks his followers to develop as well.



THANK YOU



We received a certificate from Heifer International, in thanks for the Advent Offering of \$1,085 and the Tithe we sent of \$2,000. Both of these were approved by Council in 2023 but paid in January 2024.

Celebrations in March



- 3/9 Deanne Kells
- 3/27 Cindy Erzkus
- 3/28 Eileen Fleming

*Please contact the office if your birthday is in March and not listed above.

Anniversaries

3/21 Greg and Cindy Phillips

*Please contact the office if your anniversary is in March and not listed above.



OUR 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL



The 2024 Council Members were installed on Sunday February 25 and held their first meeting following the service.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, do a NEW thing through us! Let it spring forth! Send new faith to us! Speak to us, be with us in the sacraments. Then send us as your ambassadors to our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods gifted with your story to share with others. All that we have is yours. Let us use what you have given us to the fullest for your glory. Amen.



St. Patrick's Day trivia

Who invented the Saint Patrick's Day Parade?

Here's looking at you, America. We have a lot to thank Americans for (although we don't always like to admit it) but they are the ones responsible for all this celebrating on March 17, not the Irish.

2 Where was the first Saint Patrick's Day Parade held?



The world's first recorded Saint Patrick's Day Parade took place in *Boston* on March 18, 1737, followed by the New York Parade, which first took place in 1762. Ireland took a while to join in, having their first parade in Dublin in 1931.

What is Saint Patrick's nickname?



Despite what some Americans may tell you, the nickname for Patrick is always Paddy and not Patty. The name Paddy had negative connotations at times in America but you'd never ever hear an Irish person shorten down to Patty instead of Paddy and Saint Paddy's Day or even Paddy's Day is widely used by the Irish back in the Emerald Isle.

Why do we wear green on Saint Patrick's Day?



It's traditional to don some green on March 17 .

The original color associated with St. Patrick was blue but because the Saint preached about the Holy Trinity through the symbol of the shamrock, and the Irish 'little folk' were also associated with green, it became the most common shade in connection with him.

Where was Saint Patrick born?



Nope, not in Ireland! Saint Patrick was born in Wales.






Daily Scripture Readings for March

Friday March 1	Exodus 19:9b-15	Acts 7:30-40	Psalm 19	
Saturday March 2	Exodus 19:16-25	Mark 9:2-8	Psalm 19	
Sunday March 3	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19 (8)	I Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Monday March 4	1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22	1 Corinthians 3:10-23	Psalm 84	
Tuesday March 5	2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19	Hebrews 9:23-28	Psalm 84	
Wednesday March 6	Ezra 6:1-16	Mark 11:15-19	Psalm 84	
Thursday March 7	Genesis 9:8-17	Ephesians 1:3-6	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	
Friday March 8	Daniel 12:5-13	Ephesians 1:7-14	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	
Saturday March 9	Numbers 20:22-29	John 3:1-13	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	
Sunday March 10	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19)	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Monday March 11	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 3:1-6	Psalm 107:1-16	
Tuesday March 12	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:6-13	Psalm 107:1-16	
Wednesday March 13	Isaiah 60:15-22	John 8:12-20	Psalm 107:1-16	
Thursday March 14	Isaiah 30:15-18	Hebrews 4:1-13	Psalm 51:1-12	
Friday March 15	Exodus 30:1-10	Hebrews 4:14—5:4	Psalm 51:1-12	
Saturday March 16	Habakkuk 3:2-13	John 12:1-11	Psalm 51:1-12	
Sunday March 17	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12 (10)	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Monday March 18	Isaiah 43:8-13	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Psalm 119:9-16	
Tuesday March 19	Isaiah 44:1-8	Acts 2:14-24	Psalm 119:9-16	
Wednesday March 20	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23	John 12:34-50	Psalm 119:9-16	
Thursday March 21	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Philippians 2:1-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	
Friday March 22	Jeremiah 33:1-9	Philippians 2:12-18	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	
Saturday March 23	Jeremiah 33:10-16	Mark 10:32-34, 46-52	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	
Sunday March 24	John 12:12-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16 (5)	Philippians 2:5-11
Monday March 25	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11 (7)	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tuesday March 26	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14 (6)	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday March 27	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70 (1)	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thursday March 28	Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Friday March 29	Isaiah 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 (1)	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1—19:42
Saturday March 30	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1)	Romans 6:3-11	John 20:1-18
Sunday March 31	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8



MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Clean The Kitchen 9am</i>
3 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	4 5:30pm—AA	5	6 9:00 am— Quilting Supper 5:30 Mid-week Service 6:30pm	7	8	9 <i>Council Retreat 11am</i>
10 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion Jan, Feb, and Mar birthdays following service	11 5:30pm—AA	12	13 9:00 m— Quilting Supper 5:30 Mid-week Service 6:30pm	14	15	16
17 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion Church Council following service	18 5:30pm—AA	19 <i>ELECTION DAY</i>	20 9:00 am— Quilting Supper 5:30 Mid-week Service 6:30pm	21	22 Holy Week Rehearsal	23
24  <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion	25 5:30pm—AA	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm	29 Good Friday Worship 6:30pm	30
31  <i>Easter</i> 9:15 Breakfast 10:30am—Worship with Holy Communion						

UPCOMING SERVICES



March 24, 2024 at 10:30 am



Our Palm Sunday Service begins with a processional from the social hall to the sanctuary. This year it will be accompanied by the music **of a drum. With joy we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as the King who comes in the name of the Lord.**

March 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm



Using scripture, hymns, and videos we remember the events of that first Maundy Thursday evening. We will focus on the humility of **Jesus who washed his disciples' feet, reassures them and gives to them the meal we call the Lord's Supper. We remember Jesus and celebrate the meal He gives to us.**

March 29, 2024 at 6:30 pm



We remember the very dark day that Jesus died. Using scripture, hymnody, and videos, we remember the events of that day, a day **that we dare to call "good" because of Jesus' love for the world. Our** service concludes recalling the last words that Jesus spoke and we leave the sanctuary in silence. Holy Communion is not celebrated on Good Friday.

March 31, 2024

9:15 am Breakfast

10:30 am Joyful worship



On the most joyful day of the church year we celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord. Easter is the day when God changed everything. God continues to change us as we celebrate the defeat of death and the new life that Jesus brings.

Everyone is always welcome at Ascension Lutheran Church

If you do not have a church home we invite you to feel at home with us.

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