



## Holy Week Schedule

**Saturday, April 13th - 5:30 pm**

Distribution of the Palms.

**Palm Sunday, April 14th - 10:00 am**

Distribution of the Palms.

*(Last day to register children for "Good Morning, Good Friday" program.)*



**Thursday, April 18th - Maundy Thursday**

**11:00 am** - Holy Communion

**7:00 pm** - Holy Communion and stripping of the altar

**Good Friday, April 19**

**"Good Morning, Good Friday" program,**

**9:30 am - 11:00 am**

*(Please register by April 14th.)*

**Good Friday Tenebrae Services**

**11:00 am and 7:00 pm -**

*(Tenebrae is Latin for 'shadows' or 'darkness'). This is a distinctive service celebrated with the gradual extinguishing of candles and a series of readings and hymns.)*



**Saturday, April 20th -**

**Easter Vigil and Break-the-Fast, 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, April 21st - 9:00 am and 10:45 am**

***Festival Services of  
The Resurrection of Our Lord  
with Holy Communion***

## A Little Something from "Devotionals 365 Days a Year" AKA d365.org

### **Pause**

Notice your breathing. With each breath, become aware of the love with which God looks at you in this moment.

### **Listen**

"Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion! Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin! Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me." Psalm 51:1-3

### **Think**

Researcher Brené Brown has found that there's a big difference between the two uncomfortable feelings of shame and guilt. While shame destroys our sense of self-worth, guilt can be healthy and useful. It's the negative feeling I get when something I do or fail to do doesn't meet my values. It's how I feel when I sin. It's what the person who wrote this psalm is expressing. The psalmist is rushing toward God and crying out, "I know my wrongdoings. Have mercy on me, God!"

It reminds me of a time on the beach when I saw a toddler break something. He ran to his mother sobbing and buried his head in her lap. He wanted connection. He wanted forgiveness. He wanted everything to be wiped away. And he knew his mother loved him no matter what. We can learn a lot from toddlers.

God's like the most perfect parent ever. You can trust God to want to be close to you no matter what you've done, to take your guilt and offer forgiveness – never shame.

Jane Hartwell

### **Pray**

God, as I look back on the day, I can see things I did that I shouldn't have done. I can also see things that I should have done but didn't. I'm sorry. Please forgive me and help me to love. Amen.

### **Go**

Whenever you find yourself journeying through a wilderness, struggling with temptation, with weakness, fearful of the shadows in your heart, remember the words of Paul:

*"I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not*

### Thoughts in Print - from Pastor Sue

"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love..." from Joel 2:13 NRSV

Well here we are, the middle of Lent already with Holy Week and Easter beckoning just ahead. It's hard to believe, that even though Easter falls rather late this year, it's practically upon us already. I hope and pray that you have found the opportunity for reflection and prayer during Lent. This season is a time when all of us are called to take that proverbial "look in the mirror" and honestly lay at Jesus feet both those things that we need to change and those things with which we have been gifted that we fail to share. It's also a time when we can fully embrace the forgiveness and saving grace that reminds us that, above all else, we are beloved children of God redeemed by Jesus death and resurrection.

I really hope you will spend some time looking through this Newsletter. We are actively involved in evaluating and improving all of the ways we communicate hear at HC. Our long term intention is to transition to an email based Newsletter format while still printing and mailing paper copies to the small number of our members who need one. So you will notice a few changes along the way, one of them being that we will be updating and including in future editions our Extended Prayer list. This list will include our Shut-In members, those serving in the military, those with long term illnesses in body, mind or spirit, and those who are in recovery or rehab of any kind. We'll be revising our prayer request form to help us with this and making the list available every month in the Newsletter as well as providing it to our prayer group who meets here at church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:00AM. Our hope is to encourage, enable, and enliven our prayer ministry both in the church and in all of our lives. Prayer is nothing more than a conversation with God and there is no right or wrong way to pray.

Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers as Lent comes to a close and we move into Easter. I pray that God will richly bless you with an abundance of love and peace and that the Spirit will touch your heart in new and remarkable ways! After all - Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! In His Service - Pastor Sue



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### Lutheran Disaster Response

Historic flooding in the Midwest (Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin) has led to at least three deaths and damaged hundreds of homes, and more flooding is expected as snow melts this spring. Your gifts will help address the unmet needs of those affected by the flooding, and together we stand ready to provide assistance recovery efforts. Gifts designated for "U.S. Flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted.

There are special envelopes in your packet of offering envelopes especially for Lutheran Disaster Response. Please use those envelopes and make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran Church and write "U.S. Flooding" on your check's memo line.



## Family Faith Formation Ministry Events for Children and Youth

Tuesday, April 2

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Grp, 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 7

Boundaries Training, 12:00

Monday, April 8

1st Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 10

Boundaries Training, 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 19

Good Morning, Good Friday  
Program at 9:30 am;

Saturday, April 27

"It's Still Easter" Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

Monday, April 29

1st Communion Class, 6:30 pm

## EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM *Plants are \$8.00 each*



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please write clearly)

Lily - # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip - # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount due \_\_\_\_\_

### DEDICATION:

\_\_\_\_\_ To the Glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of Loved Ones

\_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Special dedication/in honor of \_\_\_\_\_



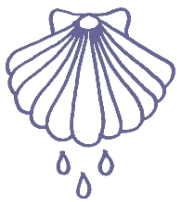
Please place this form, with payment, in the offering plate  
or turn in to the office.. Thank you!

*(All plant orders need to be submitted by April 14th.)*

**Our very own Debbie Mura** has written and published a book titled, "Stronger Than The Storm". The novel, geared toward young adults, follows 15-year-old Lacey Freshet and her friends as the high school sophomores navigate life after the storm.



All proceeds from the novel are being donated to *The People's Pantry* food pantry in Toms River and the *Helping Hands* student food pantry at Brookdale Community College, where Mura is an associate professor in the Communication Media Department. The book is available on Amazon; the paperback version is \$16.95 and the Kindle version is \$4.95. A book talk at Brookdale Community College and one in Toms River are yet to be scheduled. For additional information, visit [strongerthanthestormbook.com](http://strongerthanthestormbook.com) or contact Debbie Mura at [debbiemura19@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemura19@gmail.com). or 732.278.2234



*We welcome the newly  
baptized.*

*Cole Thomas Goodwin,  
son of Erin and Patrick Goodwin  
on March 10th.*

*William Peter Pasznik,  
son of Martha and Michael Pasznik, Jr.  
on March 24th.*

*We rejoice with you in the life of  
baptism. Together we will give  
thanks and praise to God and  
proclaim the good news to  
all the world.*



**Food Pantry  
Needs**

*For our Easter  
baskets:*

canned carrots,  
green beans, sliced pineapple,  
soup, candied yams, pasta,  
tomato sauce, cereal,  
macaroni and cheese, cake  
mix, frosting, peanutbutter,  
grape jelly and hams

*Last day to bring in food is  
Sunday, April 14th.*

*Thank you!!*

**Prayer  
&  
Fasting**

**Join us as we  
Break-the-Fast**

Immediately following the Easter Vigil  
Service on  
Saturday, April 20th (service at 5:30 pm,  
meal at 6:30 pm).

*There is a sign-up sheet on the  
bulletin board. See Mary Ann Petersen  
for more information.*

April  
SHOWERS  
BRING  
May  
FLOWERS

## **Ministry Spotlight - Greetings from the Worship & Music Ministry Team!**

First, a little introduction of the people on this team who organize everything that goes on in front and behind the scenes to make our services happen each week. We are Judy & Paul Stenzel, Janis Provost, Jim & Brenda Deligny, Brian Morgan, Jean Heidorn, Carol Capor, Pam Walter. Lisa Desa', Jinx Taggert, Laurel Reis, Mark Stemmermann and Pastor Sue.

Believe it or not it takes a small army to make everything happen, especially as we continue through Lent into Holy Week and Easter. To begin with, we wouldn't even be ready to begin worship without the work of our Altar Guild. These are the folks who set up the Altar for every service, make sure communion wine is ordered, break it all down and make sure everything is clean and ready to go for the next service. They also make sure our banners and altar linens are taken care of and changed for the seasons of the church year. There is always room for more volunteers. If you're interested, contact Pam Walter.

We also have a team of people who decorate the sanctuary for the various seasons to enhance our worship. This team is led by Andrea Stemmermann. If you're artistic or creative and have some ideas, reach out to her. She'd love to have you.

The "Welcoming" crew, better known as the ushers, is there to greet you with a smile making sure you get your bulletin, escort you to a seat when you're a visitor for a baptism or event, and usher you down the aisle when it's time for communion. Jim Deligny is the go to guy if you want to be one of the smiling faces that greet you at the door.

There are many ways to take part in the service itself as an Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, or reader. Some people choose one over another but no matter how they serve, they do it because they enjoy it. If at any time you feel you would like to help out, just contact Laurel Reis or myself. There will be a training session announced in the coming weeks for all that serve and if you feel you would like to know more about it, come and join us. We're also looking at the possibility of occasionally holding services outside or off-site location during nice weather in the summer.

Another visible group and what many see as another enjoyable part of the service, are the choirs. There is the Sanctuary Choir who rehearse on Thursday evenings. If you have a voice, see Jean Heidorn. She'd love to have you. There's also a Children's Choir led by Brian Morgan and the Hand Bell Choir led by Carol Capor. You've heard them all and there's always room for one more talented person.

So, that's just a wee bit of who is who and what and who it takes to get the worship services together. If any of these ways to get involved peaks your interest, come and give it a try. There's always a place for you! We are a kind lot of people and we'd love to have you! All Are Welcome Here!

### **Additional Info...Sanctuary Choir and dates to jot down on your calendar:**

- Maundy Thursday, April 18th: Sanctuary Choir rehearses at 6:45 for the 7:00 pm service. Rehearsal will follow afterwards.
- Good Friday, April 19th: Sanctuary Choir rehearses at 6:45 for the 7:00 pm service. There is no rehearsal after the service.
- Easter Sunday, April 21st: The Sanctuary Choir will sing at the 9:00 and 10:45 services with a rehearsal at 8:45. Brian Morgan will enhance the services on his trumpet.
- Thursday, April 25th: No Sanctuary Choir rehearsal. The Sanctuary Choir members have earned a night off!
- Sunday (4-28): 9:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal for the 10:00 am service.

### **Bell Choir Info:**

The Bell Choir will be ringing at both services on Easter Sunday. Helping out will also be Kathleen Phillips and Marsha Tatarian as well as Brian Morgan, who will augment the handball anthem with his trumpet.

### **Lenten Services:**

11:00AM and 6:45 PM (preceded by soup supper at 6:00PM)

We are exploring the theme of "A Season of Change" at both services through April 11th.

Submitted by, Mark Stemmermann

Council Representative for Worship and Music

# CHURCH COUNCIL



## 2019 Who's Who on Council

**Pastor Susan Jones** 732/349-5108 (h)

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**President, Janis Provost** 732/267-1428

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**VP Mark Stemmermann** 732/228-0246

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**Lisa Fobian, Secretary** 732/245-8070

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Community Outreach

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Mutual Ministry; Constitution and By-Laws

**Bev Prima** 732/664-3350

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Community Outreach; Discipleship

**Laurel Reis**

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Worship and Music

**Matthew Scannicchio** 732/687-5230

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Family Faith Formation



## May Events

Saturday, May 4

1st HC Rehearsal, 10:00 am

Sunday, May 5

1st Holy Communion, 10:00 am

Monday, May 7

Jr. Hi Youth Group, 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 18

2nd year confirmation  
event

Tuesday, May 21

Sr. Hi Youth Group, 6:30 pm

*(Please check the bulletin boards  
or the website for up-to-date  
meetings and events.)*

## Please Note

The church office will be **CLOSED**  
on Monday, April 22nd.

**Church Office: P (732) 255-4455**

**Christian Preschool & Day Care:**

**(732) 255-3112**

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[www.facebook.com/holycrosstr](http://www.facebook.com/holycrosstr)

Twitter - @HolyCrossTR

**Worship Services:**

**Saturday, 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, 10:00 am**

**Sunday School, 9:45 am**