



the Bugle

Grace, mercy and peace be to you, brothers in sisters, in the name of Christ Jesus.

No doubt you have similar feelings to the challenges we face in response to the efforts to manage the increasing spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, we are living in a very unusual time. Personally, it is challenging not being able to gather together to prepare for and to celebrate the high festival of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord. It is also difficult to remain physically apart when we face uncertainty. My impulse is to come together as a way of unity, to offer support, comfort, fellowship, and to gather in person for worship around a table where we know Christ is truly present and experienced in simple elements of bread and wine. While all of these are challenges, at the same time, we trust and believe in a God who meets us in our challenges, casts light into the darkness and brings hope from despair. This mailing is intended to offer resources to help make Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday a bit more meaningful and to unite us together in a common theme, scripture and prayer knowing that God is glorified when we trust in God's promises and even in the challenging times, lift our voices in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. I encourage you to be creative in finding ways that are meaningful to you as we ponder the last days of Jesus and how his resurrected life is at work yet today, even in this uncertain time.

I am very thankful for a team of members who have been assisting in making connections through a phone call. I know how important those calls, cards and messages have been to me in my time of

surgery and recovery and I hope such efforts have been good for many of you as well. In the event you have not received such a call, there is a good possibility the church does not have your current contact information. If that is true, please help update information by calling or sending an email to the church office to confirm the information is up to date. If you have questions, ideas or some message to share, please do so through those avenues as well. Efforts are being made to ensure Salem's website is as current as possible.

Weekly worship, and even regular daily devotionals are available as YouTube videos. Currently the number of members who have subscribed to Salem's YouTube site is fairly low. If we reach 100 subscribers, however, Salem can host its own YouTube channel which will greatly improve how people can search and navigate video options.

My prayer as we enter this holiest of seasons, is to be of good courage. God is with us. Jesus has come so that we might not feel abandoned or alone. We have the promise of God's love assured in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We may not know how this time in history will unfold in the days and weeks ahead, but we can be confident in a God who does know and will not leave us. May the peace and hope in Christ be renewed in you and around you!



Pastor Craig Swenson

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Palm Sunday, April 5 (online service live at 5pm Saturday, April 4)

It is common for palm branches to be distributed on Palm Sunday, so that they can be raised high as worship begins with the Gathering Song. This first hymn is filled with pomp and circumstance, reminding us of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as the king of kings and Lord of Lords. It is a reminder of the story where people spread garments on the road as well as leafy branches to pave the way for a new chapter in the life of God's people. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week and the final journey of the 40-day season of Lent. Even as the hopes of the people changed when the events of the week unfolded in Jesus' day, so do our hopes and understanding of present reality change as we adjust to living apart rather than together at such a special time in the life of the church. While palm branches have arrived at Salem, it was difficult to envision a safe way to ensure everyone could have access to them during a time when people are supposed to limit travel and exposure to the general public. Here are some ideas that might help give meaning to the celebration in a different way.

Rather than waving actual palm branches, consider making branches out of construction paper. Trace your hand on regular copy paper, color it in and cut it out or simply raise your hands as a sign of rejoicing at the news of Jesus riding into the holy city anew with all the hope and joy in believing. This year we focus on this message rather than on the usual reading of the passion story from one of the gospels. We will instead reserve that reading for Good Friday. Below are hymns and readings to help guide your day of worship on April 5.

HYMNS

All Glory, Laud and Honor
Blessing and Honor
Prepare the Royal Highway

READINGS

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11

Prayer of the Day: *Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



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In case of emergency please call:
Pastor Craig: 309-258-4759 or
Lori Reimer: 309-303-3808

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Maundy Thursday, April 9 (online worship live at noon)

As Lent draws to a close, we take time to ponder the purpose for this journey and what Jesus has truly done for us. Worship begins by acknowledging our sin and need for forgiveness. This forgiving act is symbolized by the laying on of hands and personal pronouncement of forgiveness. Sin binds us but the forgiveness that comes from Jesus frees us. Maundy, is Latin meaning "command". On this night, Jesus exemplified what love looks like as he took on the role of a servant, got up from the table, tied a towel around himself and stooped to wash the disciples' feet. Jesus then told his disciples he was giving a new commandment to love others in this same way. What are the ways you are being asked to love one another? How can we do so at a time we are separated and kept apart? The disciples did not have a clear understanding of what was taking place around them either. What we know is, the love of Jesus is real and can be trusted and will lead us in new ways to learn how to love one another more deeply as Jesus has shown.

The following hymns and passages of scripture will be used in worship. If you are joining online, you are encouraged to sing along. If you do not have internet access, know you are loved and cared for all the same. These hymns and scripture references can be used for personal devotion and inspiration even through challenging times.

HYMNS

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
Abide With Me

READINGS

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prayer of the Day - *Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Good Friday, April 10 (online worship live at noon)

Worship on this day will include many hymns and readings including what is commonly known as tenebrae meaning darkness or shadows. As the readings unfold, it becomes more and more clear that the hope for the world was fading as Jesus was arrested, tried, sentenced, died and buried. A candle will be extinguished with each reading followed by a hymn. You are encouraged to create your own setting of darkness by extinguishing candles, turning off or dimming lights as we enter the dark day of Saturday just as the day of sabbath approached leaving an emptiness in the hearts of Jesus' followers. Even grief had to wait until early on Sunday morning. In this time of "darkness" as the world moans over the spread of a raging virus, we too feel life has stood still as plans, activities, gatherings have all been suspended as we wait for this season to pass. We long for resurrected life perhaps all the more these days. When will the shadows lift and we return to some kind of "normal" life again? What will have changed? How will we function again in social contexts? Will we have greater appreciation for simple blessings? Will we have a greater appreciation for one another? Perhaps Tenebrae is all the more significant this year.

HYMNS

Just as I Am
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

PASSION READING

John 18:1—19:42

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen*

 Palm SUNDAY	online at 5PM SAT, APRIL 4
 Maundy THURSDAY	online at 12PM THURS, APRIL 9
 Good FRIDAY	online at 12PM FRI, APRIL 10

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Easter



Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday, April 12 (online worship live 6am)

On this holy day, we gather early to consider the events of recent days, praying it was all a bad dream. Jesus really had died. They had experienced the fervor of the crowd who demanded an end to this Messiah movement. This was not the Messiah many had expected. This was an imposter. He did many great things but the Son of God? Never! The hope of many had died on Friday and only a few remained trying to comprehend what would happen to them next. Who would guide them? Who would feed them? Who would give them hope again? All that seemed possible was to gather at the tomb to weep and to wonder. Following an earthquake, an angel came to roll back the stone, sat on it to reveal that Jesus was not there. Do not be afraid. He has been raised. A very unexpected scene. Empty. While two Marys were leaving the tomb, Jesus greeted them and told them, “do not be afraid.” Of what are you afraid? What calms you and brings you peace and assurance? We live in what has often been described as “unprecedented” times. We are doing our best to adapt and adjust while at the same time feeling a bit lost and fearful in such uncertain times. Even so, faith assures us that the hope and promise of Jesus is certain. Not even death can separate us from God’s divine love for us. So sing out, brothers and sisters. Let the whole world know. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

HYMNS

366 – The Strife is O’er
 367 – Now All the Vault of Heaven
 Resounds
 376 - Thine is the Glory

READING

Matthew 28:1-10

Prayer of the Day: *We give thanks to you, O God, for the fulfillment of the resurrection promise. With all the uncertainty in our world, we imagine what your disciples might have felt when they scattered bewildered and fearful in the face of an uncertain future. This day is a day of celebration as we are reminded yet again that you are with us and that you will not leave us to wander this wilderness journey alone. You speak peace to hearts that are afraid. You speak life to the dead and hope to the suffering. We thank you and praise you even as we wait and hope for what is and what is yet to be, knowing that we can declare resurrection hope with confidence. In you our hope is not uncertain but is real. Give us courage to share it. In the risen life of Jesus we live. In the risen life of Jesus we trust, now and always. Amen.*

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATUS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Dave Swanson, Salem’s Treasurer, has noted that giving has been good through March, thanks to regular and generous contributions. Thank you for supporting Salem’s work and caring for Salem’s mission through financial contributions. These can be mailed or setup electronically through Salem’s website so that you can sustain giving even when we are unable to gather regularly. Thank you!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1

Randy Carlson
 Michelle Hassel
 Martin O’Conner

April 2

Craig McGregor

April 3

Caleb Bradle
 Susan Ross

April 4

Judy Cagle
 Kevin Hodgkins

April 5

Michael Bohm
 Shirley Gustafson
 Brianna Schroeder
 Sheryl Snider
 Kayla Webster

April 6

Sandra Salverson

April 7

Lynn Akers

April 9

Gretchen Petrakis

April 11

Julia Kotewa

April 12

Joyce Crone
 Julie Hancock
 Poppy Jolliff
 Sean Patterson

April 13

John Gregg

April 15

Julie Millman
 Leslie Scott

April 16

Sienna Hopkins
 Sydney Hopkins

April 18

Carl Buerger, Jr.
 Alysa Mathisen
 April Pierce

April 19

Caroline Ricketts

April 20

David Sydow

April 22

William Petrakis

April 23

Alyssa Moore

April 25

Jacie Howard

April 26

Elyse Hickey
 Anna Vandervlugt

April 27

Makayla Schroeder

April 30

Dennis Mitchelar

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH OUTREACH PARTNERS

We have been in conversation with many of our outreach partners who working very hard to care for people during this challenging time. If you would like to help, please visit the agency’s website to learn how to make a financial contribution to help provide food and other basic necessities to some of Peoria’s most vulnerable even when things are going well and especially now when resources are less available and the needs are great. Thank you.

Bethel Food Pantry
Center for Prevention of Abuse
Crittenton Centers
ELCA World Hunger
First United Methodist Church
Loaves & Fish Program

Lutheran Hillside Village
Lutheran Social Services
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center
Midwest Food Bank
Neighborhood House
Thomas Jefferson Primary School

The Bugle
USPS 477-460



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

Easter

CELEBRATE AT ONLINE
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

-HOLY WEEK-

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5

go live at 5pm on Sat., April 4

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

go live at 12pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

go live at 12pm

-EASTER SUNDAY-

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

go live at 6am

online worship
available online at
www.salemofpeoria.com