



Ascension Lutheran Church

3801 Oakwood Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35810

April 2025

REFLECTIONS

“O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing, today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia!” Thus begins one of our Easter hymns, number 471 in LSB. Perhaps nothing sums up the meaning of Easter for us better and more succinctly than that sentence. Because of Jesus and his resurrection, you are now a son or daughter of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, born again to new life in the water and Spirit of baptism. Because of Jesus and his resurrection, death is now nothing to fear; the resurrection makes it irrelevant and powerless. Why fear death when your Lord has already proven that he can (and promised he will) reverse and undo and defeat it?



This is what sets Christians apart from everyone else, and what the message of the Gospel has to offer. It is a radical reorientation of how we view the entire world! What seems the most intractable, permanent, unavoidable part of life – the end of life – is no longer permanent or intractable. What a gift, and what a message! The refrain of Easter is “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!” and because he is risen, He will raise you too. You too are a son or a daughter of the King.

We are called to live our entire life in the light of the Resurrection – both that of Jesus, and that of our own. What a wonderful message of light and hope to share! There is no wrong time to invite someone to church or speak about this hope, but the Easter season is perhaps the most appropriate time of all. This is, after all, what it’s all about: Jesus, true God and true human, who died for the forgiveness of our sins and rose from the dead for our eternal life. Invite those you know to share in this joy and this joyful season! This year is quite a “late” Easter, falling almost as late in the calendar as it can, but it is never too late while this life lasts for someone to come to Christ.

Throughout the season of Easter, our schedule of readings during worship changes: instead of an Old Testament reading, we have passages from the book of Acts. This helps reinforce our connection with our ancient predecessors in faith in the early Church, one Body of Christ together. We also witness the ever-expanding circles of inclusion in God’s plan and Kingdom, sharing in the commission given to the Apostles: make disciples. As you have been a disciple, a student, an apprentice of Jesus, now be sent out as apostle to share what you have. “Sons and Daughters of the King” goes on to talk about Thomas’ experience and Jesus’ response to him; Jesus truly did rise from the dead, and this is good news for all to believe. May we share the prayer of the early believers from Acts 4:29, “grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.”

—Rev. Derek Waffel

Services Up until Easter

4/2 & 4/9	<i>Midweek Lenten Activities</i>
4/13	<i>Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)</i>
4/17	<i>Maundy Thursday (7:00 PM)</i>
4/18	<i>Good Friday (7:00 PM)</i>
4/19	<i>Easter Vigil (7:00 PM)</i>
4/20	<i>Easter Sunrise (6:00 AM)</i>
	<i>Easter Sunday (8:00 & 10:45 AM)</i>

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The Season We're In



The children from the CDC come to the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings to celebrate what they know and are learning about their Savior. It's not unusual to hear laughter and loud singing during their worship time. Is it the joy they feel, or is it just because they are together with Jesus in the room? Whatever it is, may God bless and keep them all.



The atmosphere is just a little bit different than that of the chapel sanctuary. Where laughter and singing is abundant on Wednesday mornings, Monday afternoons are rather more somber and quiet. Whatever the two young women are learning, may be rediscover the joy of being in the presence of God to hear and learn all they about Him. (These two both had their same experiences in chapel, too. They can have joy!

We are coming to an end of the Lenten season with its special evening vesper services and the all-time favorite Lenten meals beforehand. It has been a time of fellowship and joy, both the share meals and to share worship together. The messages have all had food for thought, known as "soul food." All are welcome to attend the last two Midweek services before Holy Week.



Palm Sunday is April 13, which begins Holy Week. The highlights of this week are seen in the graphic above, from palm branches to a Passover meal celebrated by the disciples and Jesus, to the crown, the cross and the grave. Just so you know, if you're a two-times-a-year church attender, you're missing a lot of precious time that you could use to become very emotional and fall in love with Jesus.

Easter morning, bright and early (6:00 AM), will take you to the Garden when three women came to anoint the body of Jesus, who had been dead three days. It's hard to *really* imagine that morning since we've heard the story since _____ (fill in the blank for yourself) and we *know* how it went. But just think about it in your mind and try to feel how it would be for you - if you were that woman or the disciple who found out first-hand that Jesus was missing. If you were the one who talked to Him in the Garden before you knew it was even Him. If you were the one who went back to the room and locked yourself in with the rest of the disciples, shaking in fear of being found by the Roman soldiers.

Our 6:00, 8:00 and 10:45 AM services on April 20 are interspersed with Breakfast for all, so please join us for Easter morning.

I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE -
**THE
HOLY
ONE
OF GOD!**
MARK 1:24



Stewardship

Bobbie Scroggins

RIDE ON TO DIE

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

God works in all things - not just isolated incidents – for our good. This does not mean that all that happens to us will be pleasant, and we do not have to call pain good. God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long-range benefit. Note that God does not work only to make us happy, but to fulfill His purpose. Note, also, that this promise is not for everybody; it can be claimed only by those who love God and are called by Him – that is, those the Holy Spirit convinces and enables to receive Christ. Such people have a new perspective and a new mindset. They trust in God, not in life's treasures. They find their security in heavenly priorities, not earthly ones. Their faith in Christ does not waver in pain and persecution because they know that God is with them.



*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.*

saying,

*"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt the foal of a beast of burden.'"*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Matthew 21:1-11

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet,



Stewardship (Continued)

Matthew mentions a donkey and a colt, while the other Gospels mention only the colt. This was the same event but Matthew focused on the prophecy in Zachariah 9:9, where a donkey and a colt are mentioned. He shows how Jesus' actions fulfilled the prophet's words, thus giving another indication that Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey's colt, He affirmed His Messianic royalty, as well as His humility. On the practical side, what better way to lead an unbroken colt for its first ride down a crowded road than to have its mother with it?

Matthew 21:8 is one of the few places where the Gospels record that Jesus' glory is recognized on earth. Jesus boldly rode as the King of Peace and the crowd gladly joined Him. But these same people would bow to political pressure and desert Him in just a few days. Today, we celebrate this event on Palm Sunday. That day should remind us to guard against superficial acclaim for Christ.

Earthly kings never turn out the way we hope. Old Testament Israel begged God for an earthly king, but God was their King.

Earthly kings will always disappoint because they are descendants of fallen Adam. Even Israel's great earthly king, David, confessed, *"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me."* (Psalm 51:3)

Psalm 118:19-29

*"Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.*



*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we pray, O Lord!
O Lord, we pray, give us success!*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

*The Lord is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.*

*Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!*

*You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.*

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!"*

Now all eyes are on Jesus. Gabriel had told Mary that her child would be the Son of the Most High and His kingdom would have no end. The Wise Men asked, *"Where is He who had been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him."* (Matthew 2:2)



Stewardship (Continued)

There are days when the last thing we want to do is rejoice. Our mood is down, our situation is out of hand, and our sorrow or guilt is overwhelming. We can relate to the writers of the Psalms who often felt this way. But no matter how low the writers felt, they were always honest with God. As they talked to God, their prayers ended in praise. When we don't feel like rejoicing, we should tell God how we truly feel. We will find that God will give us a reason to rejoice. God has given us this day to live and to serve Him and be glad.

On Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion), we remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem. There was so much hope in this King! Cheers swelled: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Would this King be everything they hoped for?

Jesus, God of the flesh, is the King of kings. He does not disappoint us because He is the King we truly need. God humbled Himself, coming to earth to save us. He rode on to die to take on the sins of kings and servants, Jews and Gentiles, you and me. He entered

Jerusalem, not to ascend a throne, but to ascend the cross. There, He crowned us with forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Christ requires His followers to be faithful. He Himself demonstrated faithfulness when He sacrificed His life on the cross. When Christ asks us to be faithful to death, He also promises a divine and royal reward – eternal life.

It is easy to be faithful when life is exciting and we are in the spotlight, but we need to be faithful when the monotonous routine of everyday duties begins to wear us down. We should be faithful when no one sees us because God sees us.

Be faithful to what is most noble in yourself. Shakespeare said, "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false in any man."

Above all, we should be faithful to God. He is the foundation and the source of all that is good in our lives. Without Him, life has no meaning.

Deuteronomy 7:9: *"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."*

Proverbs 20:6: *"Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?"*

Lamentations 3:22-23: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."*

Matthew 25:21: *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"*

2 Thessalonians 3:3: *"But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."*

Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin. Lord, we often do the same. They were invited to confess their sin, be clothed by You with an appointed sacrifice and rejoice in Your promise of the Messiah, which would crush Satan's headship over them. In this Lenten season, may we confess our sin, be clothed in Christ's righteousness and know the victory in Christ crucified for us. Amen.



Stewardship (Continued)

May the sun bring you new energy by day. May the moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your worries. May the breeze blow new strength into your being. May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty for the days of your life.

Happy Resurrection Day!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EASTER EGG HUNT

On Saturday, April 12, there will be a special event at Ascension and everyone is invited! Besides a hunt for *lots* of eggs on the ground, there will be a special trip around the Stations of the Cross. Jesus' seven last words on the cross (this is a test!) were:

- ◆ "Father, forgiven them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34
- ◆ "Today you will be with Me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- ◆ "Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!" John 19:26-27

- ◆ My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:45 and Mark 15:34)
- ◆ "I thirst." (John 19:28)
- ◆ "It is finished." (John 19:30)
- ◆ "Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit." (Luke 23:46)

Journey to the Cross

A Family Event
To understand the story of Easter.
Easter Egg Hunt

April 12, 2025
11:00am - 12:30pm

Ascension Lutheran Church
3801 Oakwood Ave
Huntsville, Al

Come join us for a Journey to the Cross with hands-on experiences with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow. April 12, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

We are still in need of volunteers to run another station, crowd and traffic control and to hide the eggs! Candy donations still appreciated! No chocolate, please.



From the Elder

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

John 19:30, ESV

When Jesus announced on the cross that “It is finished,” He indicated that His mission in life had been completed, that He had finished bearing on the cross the Father’s righteous anger against sinful man, that He had claimed victory over sin, death and the devil, that He had finished the task of salvation and had opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all who believed in Him. These three words say it all. The job was done, the victory complete, the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God finished.

While these words brought an end to the excruciating agony of the cross and were said immediately before Jesus’ death, they are, to me, perhaps my favorite words in the entire Bible. “It is finished.” Jesus has borne on the cross the punishment for my sins, so I no longer must suffer for them. “It is finished.” Jesus has traded His perfection for my filthy life. “It is finished.” My salvation has been accomplished. “It is finished.” My sins are forgiven. “It is finished.”

Rick Hilst



The Kingdom of Heaven has been opened to miserable sinners like me. “It is finished.” It’s over. Done. The war has been won. The devil has lost.

Hearing these words almost brings me to tears. Not tears of sadness that Jesus had humiliated Himself by becoming man, had lived a perfect, sinless life, only to be unfairly condemned, mocked, scorned and beaten ruthlessly, and ultimately hung on a tree to die like a common criminal. Instead, tears of joy. Like winning the lottery, only many times better. Like the best day of my life, only greatly amplified. Like a condemned man given a last second pardon. What God has done is beyond comprehension. Why would the all-powerful Creator of the universe humble Himself for miserable creatures like us? The horrific pain of being mercilessly flogged, the intense agony of hanging on the cross, the grotesque shame of being publicly crucified, the unimaginable suffering of His Father placing the sins of all mankind on Him and forsaking Him in His final hour, all these things He did for us. Why? His love for us must be beyond measure, that’s the only explanation that makes sense. We certainly don’t deserve any of it.

“It is finished.” The work of salvation is complete. The state of humiliation is over. The state of exaltation begins. Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God led to the slaughter on the cross is now Jesus, the Savior and Lord of all. Our Lord and our Savior. Our hope. Our salvation. Our Redeemer. Our King, now and forever.

As we observe Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday celebration of Passover and the institution of Holy Communion, the Good Friday suffering and death of our Lord and Savior, and the Easter celebration of Jesus’ resurrection in glory, let’s remember what Jesus, what God, has done for us. Let’s remember the intense love He has for us. Let’s celebrate the joy of the forgiveness won for us on Calvary!



LWML

Members Present

Nadine Hartwig, President
Mary Engel, Secretary
Michele Corser, Treasurer
Marsha Carden
Linda Hirschbuehler
Carla Jo Peebles
Helga Akins
Roberta Willenberg
Joanne Hildreth
Marcia Pate
Cathy Noble
Gloria Masters
Jan Smith

Nadine Hartwig opened the meeting and Michele Corser led the devotion. Marcia Pate will give the devotion at the April meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. The starting balance was \$925.95 and the working balance is \$530.35.

Reports

- ♦ Sunshine - Lynne Heape sent Valentine cards to Edith Turner, Margaret Taylor, and Toni Hypes. Reflections were sent to Edith Turner, Margaret Taylor, and Toni Hypes and

Annette Duckworth.

- ♦ Cradle Roll – Roberta Willenberg sent 18-month baptismal information to the family of Elizabeth Lovvorn, Granddaughter of Jan Smith.
- ♦ Huntsville Community Free Clinic - Marcia Pate delivered 123 pill bottles.
- ♦ CDC Food Pantry - Members brought items for the CDC Food Pantry for the families in need.
- ♦ Consignment Fundraiser - \$45.15 was received.

OLD BUSINESS

Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen A sign-up sheet was passed for the baked potato meal that will be served March 27. Sixty to 70 pounds of loaded baked potatoes with sour cream, butter, bacon bits, cheese, and green onions along with chili, and 125 bananas or mandarin oranges will be served. Marcia Pate will make the chili. A report was made by Linda Hirschbuehler on the status of the Rose of Sharon. We are the only organization to serve lunches. A request for prayers was made. Some needs are TV Trays, children coloring books, booklets, toiletry items.

Adopt-a-Student - The contact information below of our Adopt-A-Student was given by a letter from the St. Louis Seminary. The letter ended by saying, "You are making a wonderful difference in the life of your seminarian and you are making an eternal difference in the kingdom of God."

Mr. Jason Dulworth
Campus Post Office Box 801 Seminary PL.
Saint Louis, MO 63105
dulworthj@csl.edu

You are encouraged to send letters, cards, emails, gift cards, etc. to our adopted seminarian.

The Consignment Fundraiser – Plans are ongoing to collect items for sell or consignment in lieu of having a garage sale. Members are asked to bring items that they would like to donate to the meetings.

LWML (Continued)

Marcia Pate and Linda Myszka received a check for \$45.15 from Encore Furniture for items placed in consignment. Items not accepted from Encore are donated to Saving Way. Marcia and Linda can be called for pickup of items. Encore will also pick up large items.

The Mountain Lakes Zone Rally Spring Christian Growth Workshop will be held at Christ Our Redeemer in Hartselle on April 5. Nadine, Inga, Michele, and Marsha will be attending. Nadine had copies of the Glad Tidings, the Zone newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

The National LWML Convention will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. Marsha Carden and Michele Corser are interested in attending.

Prayer requests include Jamelle Linker, Nadine's band friend, who is back in the hospital with another infection.

The meeting was adjourned with the reading of the LWML Pledge and singing the Doxology.

Missional Outreach



Each month, the Missional Outreach group visits HHR and Regency to bring the Good News. This month, HHR will be visited on 4/2, 4/16 and 4/30 at 10:15 AM. Regency will be visited on 4/10 and 4/24 at 10:45 AM.

These visits are as follows:

Welcome

Song 1

Song 2

Old Testament Reading

Song 3

Song 4

New Testament Reading

Song 5

Song 6

Gospel

Song 7

Message

Song 8

Song 9





April

BIRTHDAYS

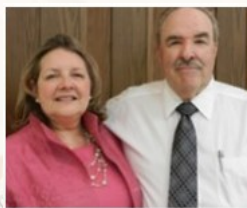
Dahn Abello	4/3	Kallie Cowart	4/13
Lincoln Anzalone	4/5	Austin Decker	4/21
Andrew Levenhagen	4/6	Caitlyn Tate	4/23
Frederick Hartwig	4/9	Roberta Hirschbuehler	4/28
Greer Heritage	4/12	Olivia Yates	4/29
Preston Heritage	4/12	Haddie Gehring	4/30
Andrew Thies	4/12		

APRIL

Anniversaries



April 9	Elaine & Larry Jeziorski	(71 years)
April 19	Nadine & Bob Hartwig	(51 years)
April 20	Sue Ellen & Bob Smith	(23 years)
April 24	Crissi & Scott Patterson	(21 years)



Forsaken Music Ministry

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Mark 15:34

*Ah, dearest Jesus,
what law has Thou broken,
that such sharp sentence
should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to
make confession -
what dark transgression?*

Do you remember singing that as a child in church? I remember singing that particular verse quite well, although I'm not sure why. Something in the words must have grabbed me and they stuck in my memory. The rest of the 15 verses, not so much, although while reading through them *now*, I resonate with most of them. That must be experience and wisdom showing me things I couldn't understand back then.

*What punishment
so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies
for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays
the debt His servants owe Him,
who would not know Him.*

When one thinks of it, who in the world would take a beating and be broken and bloody for someone else? As a parent, one would maybe be vocal about trying to save a child from a punishment that they deserve, but to lay down your life? To give up *your* life that they may or may not appreciate it? Okay, maybe for your very favorite child, but for the people of the whole world, even those (which is most of them) that you don't know? Incomprehensible.

*The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;
God is committed.*

*O, wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures, heedless, I was trying
While Thou wert dying.*

Jesus had a mission before the world began, right? He was the One who would "fix" what had yet to be broken. He was the One who loved us so deeply who hadn't yet been born. And He was the One who would suffer His own Father's desertion, who would go into the depths of Hell to break the chains that would hold us there if not for Him.

*There was no spot in me by sin untainted;
Sick with sin's poison, all my heart had fainted;
My heavy guilt to hell had well-nigh brought me,
Such woe it wrought me.*

"And in the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

Why did You forsake Him, God? How could You forsake Him? Your heart must have been breaking, too. How could it not? Do we understand; even more, do *I* understand? Of course not. Do I believe this love of God, that He loved me so much, He did this for us so we wouldn't be terminally lost in Hell with no way out? That must have been on our Savior's mind when He struggled with the nails and the thorns and the piercing of His skin while hanging on the cross. As awful as it was for Him, I am so thankful/honored/humbled that He was faithful to His Father's will for me - for us.

"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father into Your hands I commit my spirit.' And having said this, he breathed His last."
(Luke 23:45)

For me.



Calendar for April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	2 10:15 AM - HHR 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Worship 7:15 PM - Choir	3	4	5
6 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Class 9:45 AM - Regency	7 3:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Worship	8 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Directors	9 5:30 PM - Meal 6:30 PM - Worship 7:15 PM - Choir	10 10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee	11	12 10:00 AM - LWML 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM - Egg Hunt
13 PALM SUNDAY 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Class 9:45 AM - Regency	14 3:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Worship	15 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM - Board of Elders	16 10:15 AM - HHR	17 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service 8:00 PM-ish - Choir	18 12:00 & 7:00 PM - Good Friday Services	19 7:00 PM - Easter Vigil Service
20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:00, 8:00, 10:45 AM - Worship Breakfast between services	21 3:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Worship	22 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	23 6:00 PM - Choir	24 10:45 AM - Regency 3:00 PM - Call Committee	25	26 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
27 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship 9:30 AM - Class 9:45 AM - Regency	28 3:00 PM - Confirmation 6:00 PM - Worship 7:00 PM - Chinese on Jordan	29 10:00 AM - Women's Bible Study	30 10:15 AM - HHR 6:00 PM - Choir			