



First Lutheran Newsletter

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Mt. Carroll, IL
sharing Christ's love through
worship, study, and service

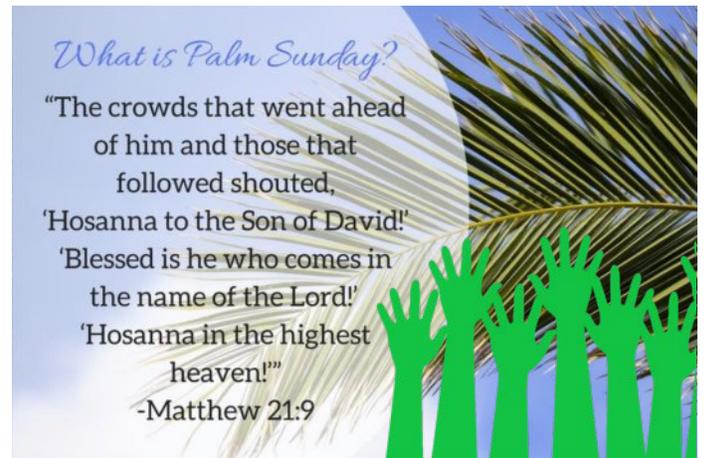
April 2020

Parson's Ponderings

As I am preparing for Holy Week and reading Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-11, I think back to all the ways our churches have recreated this scene over the years: the gathering of God's people just beyond the sanctuary, the distribution of palm branches and ushering of the children to the front of the anticipated procession. As the church universal, this has taken place in houses of worship over the centuries. But there have also been Christians that have had to meet in hiding places or practice worship only within their family homes. This may be the most memorable Holy Week we will share in our lives together in spirit while physically separated as First Lutheran Church.

So much in our world has changed almost overnight, yet as we shelter in place, we can feel the presence of God with us as we adjust to this new reality. Love, hope and grace abound around us, as neighbors check on each other by phone or drop off a loaf of bread to someone who found the shelves at Shaw's Market empty the day before. Conversations are more focused on how long this may be and a new appreciation for simply gathering, at school, work, play or a cup of coffee in your favorite restaurant.

Sunday mornings are more of a challenge as we settle into experiencing "Church at Home" for another 30 days. Our families **Gather** together for worship around kitchen or coffee tables. Those who live alone call other parishioners or friends to praise our Lord and recite our corporate confessions. A familiar Hymn is sung and all join their voices in the Prayer of The Day. God's **Word** is read aloud and preached giving us a chance to discuss what the Holy Spirit has put on our hearts. The **Meal** is our time to give thanks for all that God has provided us. We remember to mail in our offering as we sing or recite: We Are Offering. As we extend our fast from Holy Communion, we reflect on what our Baptism and Holy Communion mean in our life as a Christian. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.



God blesses us and **Sends** us in mission to the world. Just remember the restrictions we are all under and get creative in how you share the good news this week.

This Palm Sunday, we will have to raise our open hands and wave our Palms while we read the Processional Gospel, " ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, **humble**, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Humble is a word our nation is relearning. As the Pandemic spreads across our land and touches us personally, many are joining us on our knees as we pray for our loved ones, the first responders, medical personnel, and all who have joined in the fight against this ravaging virus. God is present in times of trouble and great joy. God abides with us and walks with us, we feel his presences, now more than ever.

We are going to attempt a Zoom Service this Sunday for those of you who have Smart Phones or computers with Internet Access. Others will be able to call in on a specified phone number. Your invitation to join together electronically will be coming shortly.

Blessings on your Journey, Parson Bob

Your Council

Members:

Liz Rath

President

815-244-9597

Brian Brinkmeier

Vice-President

Finance

815-631-4894

Dennis Yochem

Recording Secretary

Property

815-244-1074

Jo Lyn Kruse

Worship & Music

815-213-0330

Brett Yochem

Stewardship

815-244-4004

Ron Kaufman

Memorial

309-887-4390

Pat Erdmann

Mutual Ministry

815-493-8057

JoAnn Palmer

Social Ministry

WELCA

815-244-2343

Brian Woessner

815-244-9534

April 2020

Lectionary

Sunday Apr 5

Matthew 21:1-11;

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 27:11-54

Sunday Apr 12

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday Apr 19

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16 (11)

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Sunday Apr 26

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Special Birthdays

Lyle Hartman

4

James Haag

14

April 2020

Birthdays

Alan Schroeder

3

JoAnn Palmer

4

Kade Peirce

10

Lori Cravatta

16

Zaya Peirce

18

Sandy Shaw

21

Ronald Kaufman

30

Anniversaries

Robert & Julie Willson

16

Steve & Linda Kehl

26

February Council Highlights

The First Lutheran March 10th council meeting was called to order by Liz Rath. Brett Yochem moved to approve the agenda presented before council. Brian Woessner seconded the motion and the motion passed. Jo Lyn Kruse moved to approve the February 11th council minutes, Dennis Yochem seconded the motion and the motion passed. Brett moved that the Treasurer's, Financial Secretary's, and the Memorial Treasurer's Reports be accepted. Brian Brinkmeier seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Parson Bob and Barbara have purchased appliances for the parsonage kitchen, they have been installed. First Lutheran will host a Lenten Soup Supper on March 18th. Brian B. gave the Finance report and moved that the bills presented should be paid by the treasurer. Dennis reported for Property that Mark Dollinger will be looking and giving us an estimate on tuck pointing the upper walls of the church. Shevawn Yochem and Cynthia Woessner have reorganized and cleaned the Sunday School area.

Under Old Business - Church 360 Ledger training is set for Friday March 27th with Jennifer Carsons to help. A committee has been formed to look at sign options for out in front of the church. Dennis reported that they have met and discussed what we might want and will contact sign companies to receive more information to look at. NI Synod Congregational Resourcing Event will be held March 14th at Kishwaukee Community College. JoLyn and Brian Kruse, Liz Rath, Barb and Parson Bob Stark are registered to attend. Council discussed taking precautions with the Coronavirus 19 and steps are being put in place to protect our members. Liz recommended a potluck brunch be served at First Lutheran on East Sunday. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recording Secretary, Dennis Yochem

Parson's February Monthly Highlights

Worship Services, visitations, committee meetings, Internship supervisory meetings and community commitments were attended as well as MCMA and GRO Board Meetings. I presided over four worship service with communion for First Lutheran and a Worship Service at Allure Nursing Home. Held an Ash Wednesday Service, February 26th, 14 attended. There were four Internship Supervisor meetings and one Internship Lay Committee meeting. Presided over the funeral and graveside interment of Bud Kruse. Married Leilani Strauch & Kevin Reusch, on Saturday February 22 at First Lutheran. Prepared 8 sermons in all.

Men's Coffee and Bible Study met 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. 6 - 8 men are attending, and we are still hoping to grow that and led a WELCA Bible Study. Attended continuing education event; Crucial Conversations with Pr Edie Lenz and Pr. Scott Stephan. Hosted our Movie Night and cooked for 5 Minutes of Fame.

Attended the Northwest Conference of Pastors at NISynod in Rockford with Bishop Clements. Battled with a bout of pneumonia for 2 weeks and was not able to get the February Newsletter out.

In Our Prayers

Nico Neely

Kevin Powers

Barb Vietmeier

Charleen Smith

Benjamin Albrecht

Shirley Richter

Elaine McKee

Ruth Ann Getz

Pat Connor

Darlene Koontz

Ruth Ann Remrey

Scott Gallentine

Allison Powers

Claudia Eiteuner

Shane Ashlock

Darlene Kaufman

Family and Friends
of Denver Traum

In Assisted Living:

Ron Holm

Donna Wurster

In Military Service here and abroad:

Terry Gilmore

Rick Medal

Aaron Hartman

John Kaufman

Benjamin Rath

February 2020

Current Fund Report

Current Income \$ 4515

Current Expenses (\$ 5607)

Difference (\$ 1092)