



CONNECTIONS

Ascension Lutheran Church

April, 2019



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 3 & 10	Vespers
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Easter



Palm/Passion Sunday April 14 at 9:30—meet in Blaar Hall

Maundy Thursday April 18 at 6:00—meet in Blaar Hall

Good Friday Worship April 19 at 7:00

Easter Sunday April 21 at 8:30 and 11:00

Easter Brunch at 9:45

Have a Holy Week

Pastor Doug Vold

Holy week is the most spiritually dense and rich time of the whole year. Of course, that means Easter. But the services that lead up to Easter are wonderful opportunities to deepen our experience and understanding of the mystery we call God. So I commend them to you and invite you to set aside these days and times to worship with your church family. It may seem like a lot of church, but I don't think you'll be sorry.

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. Since the advent of the LBW in the late 70's Palm Sunday has also become a time of engaging the story of Christ's passion. It is an interesting, and slightly chaotic, worship that begins in Blaar Hall with a kind of reenactment of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Soon, however, the mood shifts, and we read together (as a group dramatic reading) Luke's version of Jesus arrest and crucifixion. It sets the table for the week to come.

Maundy Thursday Communion around the table. This is the night the church remembers Jesus' last supper. We, of Ascension, observe this with worship at the table. Everyone sits around one big table. We share a brief liturgy of Holy Communion, and then we commune one another around this table. The symbolism of the one table is powerful, and this manner of receiving and giving the body and blood of Christ is moving. Then we eat together. It is believed that this "Agape Meal" format is a practice of the early church. This year a few of our committees are working together to provide supper for the rest of us. (that's right, this is not a potluck this year.) And at the end of the evening we enter the sanctuary and strip the altar, a way of contemplating the humiliation our Lord endured.

Good Friday. This worship, known as the adoration of the crucified, is one of the most touching of the week. In Scripture readings, prayers, songs, and presentations by our choir and bell choir, we contemplate the crucifixion, and the mystery of God's great love. The experience is quiet and meditative, and deeply meaningful. We hear the last words of Jesus. The candles are extinguished. We leave in silence, waiting for God's next move. Of course, we know Easter is next, but this pause opens our hearts and prepares them for the wonder that will come.

The resurrection of our Lord. Glorious wonder. Surprising life. Stunning joy. Easter is the highlight of the Christian year. The resurrection of Jesus is the event Christian faith is built on. We believe in a God who calls forth life out of death! On this day we have two opportunities to worship, 8:30 or 11:00, and we bring out the alleluias and sing them with gusto. Also, as is the tradition, we will have Easter breakfast (or brunch) put together by our youth as a fundraiser for the next National Youth Gathering.



Age 5-5th grade:

April 7 – Family Sunday School – Theme for the month:
Easter

April 14 – Palm Sunday/ Holy Week Workshop

April 21 – Easter Sunday With egg hunt and Easter breakfast

April 28 – Easter Event!

Middle School:

April 7 – Family Sunday School

April 14 – Bible Study with Pastor Doug

April 21 – Easter Sunday with egg hunt and Easter breakfast

April 28 – Help with Easter Event

High School:

April 7 – Family Sunday School

April 14 – Activity

April 21 – Easter Sunday with egg hunt and Easter Breakfast

April 28 – Help with Easter Event

Apr

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	1 6:30 Community Quilters	2 8:30 Quilters 4:00 Discovery Chorus 6:00 Confirmation	3 9:3 5:15 Wo 6:00-Ves 6:30-Chc 6:30-Eas Mtg
7 9:30 Worship 10:45 Education Hour 11:30 Youth Hand- bells	8 2:00 Admin. Mtg. 6:30 Community Quilters	9 9:30a - Arts Mtg. 9:30 Sarah Circle 3:45 Discovery Chorus 4:00-Finance Mtg 6:00-Confirmation 7:00 Sanc. Lighting Mtg	10 9:30 Bibl 12:30 Mi 6:00 Ves 6:30 Chc
14 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:45 Education Hour 11:30 Youth Hand- bells	15 6:30 Community Quilters	16 8:30 Quilters 3:45 Discovery Chorus 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Council	17 9:30 Bibl 6:30 Cho
21 Easter 8:30 Worship 9:45 Brunch 11:00 Worship	22 6:30 Community Quilters	23 8:30 Quilters 3:45 Discovery Chorus 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Council	24 9:30 Bibl
28 9:30 Worship 10:45 Education	29 6:30 Community Quilters	30 8:30 Quilters 3:45 Discovery Chorus 6:00 Confirmation	

April

	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30 Bible Study Worship Mtg. -Vespers -Choir -Easter B/fast Mtg.	4 9:00 Joyful Noise 9:30 ALCW Board 1:00 Brightline Eaters 6:00p - Grace Notes	5 6:30 AA	6
Bible Study 0 Martha Circle Vespers Choir	11 9:30 Joyful Noise 11:00 J.N. at Horton 1:00 Brightline Eaters 6:00 Grace Notes	12 6:30 -AA	13 2:00 Girl Scouts
Bible Study Choir	18 Maundy Thursday 9:00 Joyful Noise 1:00 Brightline Eaters 6:00 Grace Notes 6:00 Communion	19 Good Friday 12:30 Medford Garden Club 7:00 Worship	20
Bible Study	25 9:00 Joyful Noise 1:00 Brightline Eaters	26 6:30 - AA	27 Youth Handbells 2:00 - Girl Scouts

Easter Breakfast Meeting!

High school and middle school who are thinking about attending the Service trip 2020 and the National Youth Gathering 2021, please come to this meeting on April 3rd, at 6:30pm (after evening prayer). We will be planning the Easter breakfast as well as talking about this summer! If you can't make this meeting please let Tara know so that she can communicate with you! Thank you!

Get to know some other families in the church!

We will be doing events together so that families can get to know each other more! We have grouped the kids and will contact each group to plan their activity and date and time! This will be coming very soon so please look for it and if you are able to, please attend! Any questions or need clarifying, please talk to Tara or email at tara@ascensionlutheran.com.

Easter Event April 28th!

We are doing an Easter event during the Sunday school hour on the 28th. It is like an hour long VBS feel to it! We will be having the families go through together. We are looking for middle school and high school parents as well as other volunteers to help put this on! If you are interested please talk or email Tara at tara@ascensionlutheran.com.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS—APRIL 9

We are planning to begin the process of reviewing and updating the lighting in Ascension's worship space. Any and all who are interested are invited to this kick-off meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00pm.

Finance Update

By Marsha Bones, Finance Chair

In April, members will be receiving their first quarter giving statement from Susan Yarne. When you receive your statements please look them over to make sure our financial records match your giving records for the first three months of 2019. It is much easier to make corrections now rather than yearend.

Our giving was down in February, most likely due to two snowy Sundays. For the first three Sunday's in March, the offerings was decent; however our giving is lagging behind 6-7% at the end of the first quarter.

Thrivent Information and Thrivent Choice Dollars Poll

By Marsha Bones

On Sunday, April 14, 2019 before and after church, Ascension's Thrivent Advocates will be at a table in the Fireside room to poll Thrivent Members on how they would like to see the Choice Dollars used for. There will also be information on Thrivent, so anyone wanting to know more about their programs and products should stop by too.

ALCW NEWS

ALCW BOARD MEETING: Thursday, Apr. 4 at 9:30

SARAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, Apr. 9 at 9:30 at RV Manor apartment building in the 6th floor lounge. For a ride or more information call Winkie Griffin or Peggy Skeele.

MARTHA CIRCLE: Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30

SPRING LUNCHEON: May 4, 11:30 at Centennial Golf Club

Ascension Lutheran Church

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Our Mission

We, the members of Ascension Lutheran Church, gratefully rooted in the Good News of God's Grace, proclaim our partnership with the whole church of God and give ourselves to worship, witness and service.

Our Vision

We are a community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to support and serve one another.