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ADVENT

LUTHERAN WYCKOFF

Worship
Saturday 5:00 pm Contemporary
Sunday 9:30 am Traditional
Sunday School 9:20 am
September – May

VOLUME 58

NUMBER 4

APRIL 2019

FROM PASTOR JOSEPH

Holy Week is the most important week of our year. Everything else we do in the year points to Holy Week, and everything we do in Holy Week shapes the rest of the year. Instead of doing my typical newsletter thing (writing about whatever I was thinking about when Sharon told me she needed my article), I want to lay out what you can expect for the entire week.

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) –

This service is actually comprised of two distinct liturgies. The easiest way to think about it is as a Service of the Word (Palms) attached to a “normal” mass setting (Passion). In addition to the story of Jesus’s entrance into Jerusalem, we will also read a brief selection from Luke’s passion narrative. To accentuate the distinction between the two liturgies, we will begin Sunday’s palm procession outside the church on the lawn (weather permitting). The Saturday liturgy will be the same as normal with the additional gospel reading taking the place of the first reading.

Maundy Thursday – This is the simplest service for our Holy Week. While we will not do foot washing, this service will include anointing with oil for the individual forgiveness of sins. It also includes the stripping of the altar and time for meditation. While Advent has celebrated first communions on Maundy Thursday in the past, we will celebrate them in May this year to make scheduling easier for families.

Good Friday – At noon, the Wyckoff Reformed Church hosts its Seven Last Words service with short reflections on the passion from pastors of Wyckoff’s churches. While some Seven Last Words services last three hours, this service only lasts about sixty or

seventy minutes. Andy Kadzban, Wyckoff Reformed Church’s pastor, does a fantastic job organizing this every year, and the service is well worth your time if you are free during the day.

At seven o’clock, we will be joining St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church in their sanctuary for a Tenebrae service. This will be our primary Good Friday liturgy. Fr. Stephen and I will lead the service along with readers and musicians from both Advent and St. E’s. This is a new project that Stephen and I have been working on that came out of our event on Pope Francis in February. Because this is a shared liturgy, we have discussed having next year’s service at Advent. Because the Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday, this is the one day of the year we can have our typical service together with both communities participating fully.

Easter – Oddly enough, Easter is our most “normal” liturgy of the whole week. Our Saturday service will be almost identical to a typical service, while our Sunday liturgy will have a few more flourishes than usual. Jason is coordinating brass to accompany our hymns.

I would encourage you to talk to Jason about singing in the choir for Holy Week, especially if you haven’t sung in a choir before. What’s Easter for if not trying something new?



Peace and courage,
Joseph Schattauer Paillé, Pastor

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



I hope you all saw the March 17th edition of *The Record*, which had an article on the good work being done by our own Art Collard. Several years ago, while making his regular deliveries of Advent's donations to the Center for Food Action, Art noticed that there was heavy demand for children's books. For families struggling to put food on the table, reading material is an unaffordable luxury.

Art rallied the congregation and, soon, we'd donated more than 2,000 children's books to the CFA. Then Art branched out, delivering hundreds of books to the Boys & Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic. The books (most of them very basic) serve a dual purpose: they help underprivileged kids learn to read and also help many of their parents, who are struggling to learn English as a second language.

Art didn't do any of this for recognition, but he agreed to be interviewed because it would help raise Advent's profile and highlight our tradition of community service. And his book drive isn't the only example. As I write this, collection boxes in the narthex are overflowing with items to fill Easter baskets for CFA clients and care packages for our college students.

As a congregation, we regularly – and generously – respond to a multitude of needs. It's nice to see part of our story told.

Bill Whitney,
Council President

EVENING STUDIES DURING LENT@ 7 PM

Our evening study for Lent is on Elizabeth Johnson's *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love*. *Ask the Beasts* is an examination of the relationship between faith in God and the concept of ecological care within a crisis of biodiversity. No prior reading required. There are still two opportunities in April: the 3rd and the 10th.

Pastor Joseph

THANK YOU THRIVENT CLIENTS

We learned in late 2018 members who have accounts with Thrivent might be eligible for "Choice Dollars", which can be allocated to various Lutheran causes.

We thought if every Thrivent client chose Advent as the recipient, the church might receive about \$3,500. But, after making this known, we did even better. At the March Council meeting Treasurer Peter Rutherford reported that Thrivent has deposited \$4,325 into Advent's bank account. Thank you all for choosing your home church.

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

- ♦ Bill Whitney, *Council President & Stewardship*
- ♦ John Havens, *Vice President & Finance*
- ♦ Christine Vajda, *Council Secretary*
- ♦ Elise Geiger, *Financial Secretary*
- ♦ Peter Rutherford, *Treasurer*
- ♦ Mary Pensallorto, *Fellowship*
- ♦ Janice Reynen, *Membership Development*
- ♦ Bill Joseph, *Christian Education*
- ♦ Sue Poff, *Giving and Advocacy*
- ♦ Ryan Spector, *Member-at-Large*
- ♦ Executive Committee, *Mutual Ministry*

Thankful offerings to...

- Pastor Joseph for his two years of service at Advent. Congratulations on his two-year anniversary and prayers for many more.
- Pastor Joseph for being so active in the community which has given Advent a greater presence.

FROM FELLOWSHIP

Advent's Annual Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 21st



Come one, come all. Advent will host a continental Easter breakfast from 8:15 to 9:30. There will be a variety of food: quiche, eggs, bagels, and yogurt to name a few. Join us and share in some fellowship after before the 9:30 Worship Service.

"Nothing brings people together like good food"

NOTE DATE CHANGE!!



ADVENT'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL DINNER!!!

Saturday, APRIL 6, 2019 • 6:00 p.m.

Open to all congregants, their families & friends

Please bring an international (or your favorite) appetizer or dessert

Advent will supply the dinner, wine and beer.

Sign up is located in the narthex or you can call Mary Pensallorto 201-891-1031

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. It is easy. Directions and help can be provided. All you have to do is supply the bagels or cake or fruit and milk. Advent members love to mingle and talk. This is the sign of true fellowship. Sign up is near the Fellowship Hall or you can call or text Mary Pensallorto at 201-891-1031. The people of Advent thank you!



FROM FINANCE: MONEY MONDAYS?

For as long as anyone can remember, our practice has been to have two people – one of them a council member – count the offering and deposit it in the bank after the Sunday morning service. But recently, because our council is smaller than in years past, these duties have become burdensome. Going forward, we've decided to follow ELCA guidelines, which simply recommend that any two adult members serve as tellers.

It's been suggested that more volunteers might be available if the count was done on Monday morning (or any mutually agreeable time that day). Without feeling rushed to get done, the process would be more relaxed and less prone to error.

If you're willing to join the Money Monday Club, please contact the church office at adventlutheranwyckoff@verizon.net.

Thank you.

Matt Reynen's Eagle Ceremony brought 85 visitors to our church on Sunday, March 10th. Chris, Janice, Andy and Matt warmly give thanks to the whole Advent congregation for being a part of our family's life and helping us raise up these boys.



The Matt Advent Eagle Scouts: Matt Rizzo, Matt Reynen and Matt Salisbury. Reynen awarded Rizzo and Salisbury Mentor Pins during the Eagle Ceremony for being inspirational people in his life.

FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY

Advent continues its donation of Easter Baskets to the Center for Food Action in Mahwah. This enables the CFA staff to supply baskets to their clients with children. You are invited to take part in this outreach ministry by bringing in the following goodies: raisins ♦ nuts ♦ dried fruit ♦ 100% juice boxes granola bars ♦ small pop-top canned fruit ♦ individual bags of crackers ♦ individually wrapped candy. We need new 6" - 12" baskets and cellophane. All items **must** be at church by **Sunday, April 7** so baskets can be assembled after worship and delivered to the CFA the next day. Please place items in the Easter Baskets located in the narthex. If you can participate in assembling the baskets on Sunday, April 7th please contact the church office at 201-891-1031 or adventlutheranwyckoff@verizon.net. Thanks!



College Care Packages



We're sending off care packages to our college students as they hit the books for finals. Here's a list of snacks and goodies but feel free to add you what you want! There's a collection box in the narthex. *If you haven't given us your college student's info – please do if you think they'd like a care package from their church family.* **Suggested items:**

granola ♦ popcorn ♦ gum ♦ fruit gummy bears
trail mix ♦ nuts ♦ dried fruit ♦ protein or breakfast bars ♦ peanut butter/honey/jelly in plastic containers ♦ Goldfish ♦ pretzels
crackers ♦ candy ♦ tea ♦ sinus soother
Emergen C ♦ cough drops ♦ hand sanitizer
wipes ♦ inspirational cards ♦ note cards ♦ gift cards to Starbucks/Dunkin Donuts/Panera
small bank gift card ♦ anything non-perishable and/or fun that can provide a bit of protein and/or a touch of home!

Please have all items in by **Sunday, April 7** and forward students' names and addresses to Sue church office.

Thanks to the overwhelming response to the request for plastic bags and plastic food containers, three large garbage bags full of plastic shopping bags and a large garbage bag full of plastic containers were taken to St. Matthew Trinity Church's Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken last month so they are well-stocked for the time being. Another collection will take place when we are notified of the need. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I thank you so very much for your well wishes, cards and telephone calls, and also Pastor for his visits while I recuperated from broken ribs. I am happy to feel much better.

Thanks again.

*In Christ,
Sofia Bodin*



I would like to thank the Advent Endowment Committee, the Council, Pastor Joseph, and the congregation for the recent grant to Ars Musica Chorale. I was quite moved when Pastor Joseph originally approached Ars Musica to apply. I continue to be moved by the support that Advent offers the Wyckoff area community across a wide range of endeavors via the Endowment Fund.

I am also glad to be a part of Ars Musica, not only because the music is an uplifting part of my life, but I feel the organization is dedicated to engaging the local community in the arts and supporting the arts community and its future via programs like the Encore Young Artists and the New Jersey State Children's Chorus (NJSCC).

So, there are many thank yous to be spread around. It is refreshingly life-affirming to be a small part of organizations that demonstrate the love, joy, and caring for each other that we are all supposed to emulate.

*With gratitude,
Diane Stelling*

HOSEA'S UNUSUAL COMMAND FROM GOD

"Hosea is a prophet of love, but not love as we imagine or fantasize it."

Eugene Peterson, *The Message*

Truer words are rarely spoken. I have mentioned in past articles if you wish to be a prophet, be careful what you wish for. I don't know Hosea's motives, I would have loved to see the expression on his face. Verse 1:2 states, "the first time God spoke to Hosea he said, 'find a whore and marry her. Make this whore the mother of your children. And here's why: the whole country has become a whorehouse unfaithful to me, God.'" I bet Hosea didn't see that one coming!

God, as always, had a loving purpose behind the request. Israel, the northern kingdom, had ignored the prophet Amos, and continued to turn away from God. He next sent the prophet Hosea as a dire last warning. Although little is known about Hosea, the language and phrasing used in writing his book indicates he was a resident of Israel, the only known prophet to actually be a local. So, God turned to a resident to make a point. In instructing Hosea to marry a "whore" God was making the situation a metaphor for his relationship with Israel. In 3:1 God states, "love her the way that I God, love the Israelite people, even as they flirt and party with every God that takes their fancy." The country had not responded to Amos's blunt condemnation of their practices, so God tried a little subtlety, equating the behavior of Israel to a wayward wife.

Hosea must have wondered what he signed up for, but he did what he was instructed to do. He married a woman name Gomer, whose name means "bring to an end, complete". The unfaithful wife, a symbol of unfaithful Israel, has a name that points to the judgment their actions will cause. They then had three children, who were also symbolically named. The first, Jazreel, means "god scatters", the fate awaiting the ten tribes of Israel if they do not heed the call. The second child, named Lo-Ruhamah, means "not loved". (Just an aside - how would you like to be named "not loved" by your parents? Ouch.) In 1:6 God explains, "I will no longer show love to Israel, that

I should at all forgive them." The third child, named Lo-Ammi, translates as "not my people". This perhaps is the most damning: in the ancient Near East, a legal dissolution of marriage happened by proclaiming before witnesses "you are not my wife, and I am not your husband." God is, in effect, announcing a divorce from Israel. "For a nation whose identity exclusively resides in its unique, covenant relationship with God, the dissolution of the relationship is a blow to the very heart of what it means to be Israel." (Quote from Michael Williams, author of *Hidden Prophets of the Bible*.) Hosea further depicts Israel as fundamentally flawed, as he criticizes Israel using people, plants, animals, and common objects as examples. If you thought Amos was unsubtle,

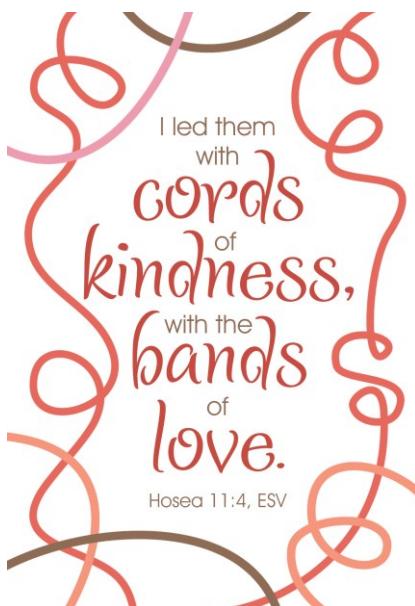
Hosea is a little smoother, but not much. It also should not surprise you that the term "happily ever after" does not exactly apply to his marriage with Gomer. Despite the love of Hosea, Gomer strays again and again; at one point Hosea has to buy her back from slavery. It's tough being a prophet.

It should also not surprise you that Hosea offers hope to Israel. Should they straighten out, in the future God will again be merciful to them and bless them. The definition of grace is "divine, unmerited favor", and we in present times enjoy it with the coming of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins.

So why should we care about this ancient soap opera? First of all, it presents a different way of understanding God's relationship with Israel, by presenting it in a family situation that may be more relevant to us today, than say, Near Eastern divorce customs. Recently, the best seller *Pachinko* by Min Jim Lee used the book of Hosea to show why a young Korean pastor would marry a woman who was unmarried and pregnant by another man. Her prospects were dire, and the Pastor chose to demonstrate God's unwavering love for us by taking her to be his wife.

God reaches out to Hosea to remind us of the faithfulness he exhibits towards us, and his desire for us to respond. Hosea may be a "soap opera", but it's a good one.

Gerry Lauro





APRIL 26 - 28, 2019
Addiction Bereavement
Retreat at
Loyola Retreat House

Morristown, NJ

**For men and women who have lost a
loved one from drugs or alcohol**

In response to the national average of 198 addiction deaths PER DAY in the United States, Tom Dwyer and Lani Bonifacic are running their second not-for profit Addiction Bereavement Retreat weekend. Adults grieving the death of a loved one to addiction are welcome. We have a weekend of restoration and healing planned that will include music therapy, art therapy, yoga, a light hike, and highly skilled licensed clinicians who will lead processing groups. None of us will receive any compensation for our services. (*Think Doctors without Borders, but we are clinicians on a mission.*) Due to the stigma and judgement associated with addiction, it is often difficult and lonely for the bereaved to find others who understand this unique grieving experience.

- Connect with others who understand the grief
- Learn from peers and licensed professionals how to deal with the emotional challenges after the loss
- Enjoy meditative walks on beautiful gardens and grounds
- Learn the meaning of *The New Normal, Continuing the Bond, Meaning Making*
- Participate in an educational and spiritual (not religious) experience

Weekend includes: 2 nights, 6 meals, workshops by licensed clinicians, workshop materials. Coffee and tea available throughout the day.

Cost: \$250 (please contact Pastor Joseph if cost is prohibitive)

This not-for-profit retreat is hosted by:

Thomas Dwyer, LPC, LCADC, CT
908-665-1000 or

www.gatewaycenterforcounseling.com
and Lani Bonifacic, LCSW, 201-786-8572
www.lanibonifacic.com

Early registration is recommended.

CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT

"STICKS AND STONES"
BUILDING UP RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EACH
OTHER, CREATION, AND GOD!"

April 26-28, Cost is \$95
Contact Pastor Joseph for more info.

WOMEN OF THE WOODS

Laughter: The Music of the Soul
May 4, Cost is \$25
Contact Pastor Joseph for more info.

Check out Cross Roads website:
crossroadsretreat.com

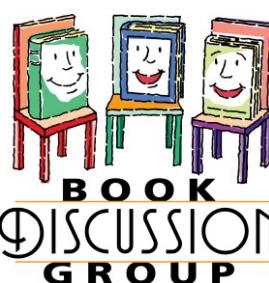


FAITH AND GRIEF
Luncheon at Christian
Health Care
April 17 at Noon



APRIL BOOK GROUP: Monday, April 15

Advent's Book Group meets monthly from September to June in the church library on the third Monday at 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited to join us for lively discussions. Our April selection is *The Storyteller's Secret* by Sejal Badani.



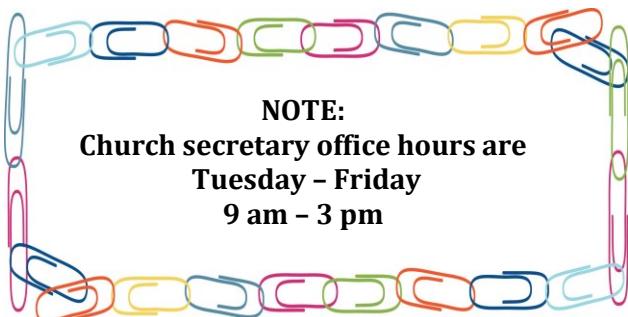
Upcoming books are *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen for May and in June we'll read and discuss *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton.

Happy APRIL Birthday to...

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kathryn Swatek | 17 Scott Hammond |
| 2 Kay Tangen | 20 Aleta Keller |
| 4 Cathy Kirk | 21 Nicholas Fastuca |
| 5 Matt Rizzo | 23 Alyssa Hammond |
| 8 Melissa Rizzo | 25 Kay Baxter |
| 8 Kimberly Soares | 26 Beth Aquino |
| 10 Patrick Weaver | 27 Jason Spector |
| 14 Janet Schulz | 28 Maureen Wuerfel |
| 14 Stephen Teitelbaum | 29 Ronald Wagner |
| 17 Ava Bajakian | |

Happy APRIL Anniversary to...

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1 Preston & Mary Blazin |
| 14 John & Christine Keeler |
| 24 Frank & Mary Pensallorto |
| 28 Anthony & Kim Mattessich |
| 28 Fred & Sharon Monk |



NOTE:

Church secretary office hours are
Tuesday - Friday
9 am - 3 pm

EASTER FLOWERS

Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter: select lilies, daffodils, or tulips or hydrangeas. We have not had a price increase in several years and are waiting to hear what the new costs will be. Check the weekly announcements and prayers, Advent's website or call the church office. Please write your name, dedication, and number of plants you want on the signup; make check payable to Advent Lutheran Church, designation: Easter flowers and put check in envelopes provided. You can take your plant home after the 9:30 Easter morning service. Last day to order: **Palm Sunday, April 14.**



Thanks to Those Serving this Month...

April 7

- Assisting Minister** Bob Schoendorf
Acolyte *Please sign up*
Reader Carolyn Tedesco
Ushers Mary & Frank Pensallorto
Communion Prep Christine Keeler
Fellowship *Please sign up*

April 14 Palm Sunday

- Assisting Minister** Carolyn Tedesco
Acolyte *Please sign up*
Reader Bill Whitney
Ushers Gerry Lauro & Joe Salerno
Communion Prep Lois Salisbury
Fellowship *Please sign up*

April 21 Resurrection of Our Lord

- Assisting Minister** Bill Whitney
Acolyte *Please sign up*
Reader Roy Borgeson
Ushers Linda Ganger, John Havens
Anthony Rizzo, Matt Rizzo
Communion Prep Carolyn Tedesco &
Christie Rutherford
Fellowship Easter Breakfast

April 28

- Assisting Minister** Linda Ganger
Acolyte *Please sign up*
Reader Diane Havens
Ushers Gerry Lauro & Sofia Bodin
Communion Prep Barbara Lauro
Fellowship Anna Schattauer Paille

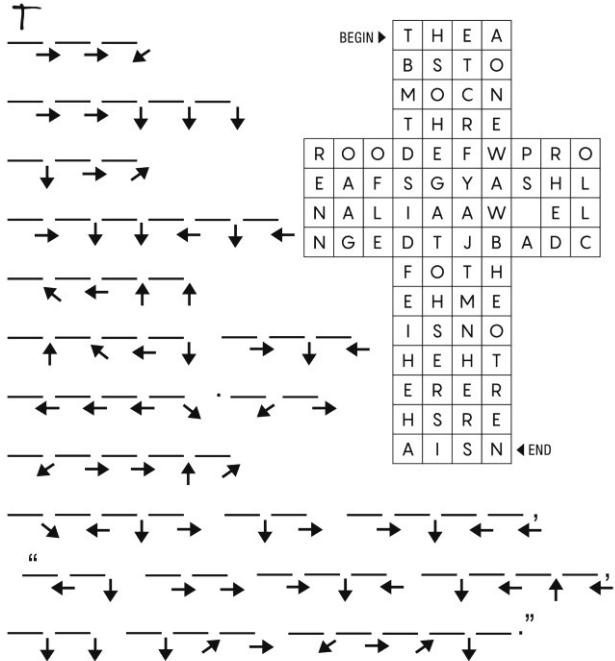
Teller (Council)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| April 7 | Janice Reynen |
| April 14 | John Havens |
| April 21 | Bill Whitney |
| April 28 | Sue Poff |
| Counter | Linda Ganger |

There are available Sundays throughout the year to dedicate altar flowers. Cost is \$35 and arrangement may be taken home after Sunday morning worship. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the sitting area. Make sure you write how you'd like the dedication to read in the weekly Announcements & Prayers.

Puzzle!

Follow the arrows and fill in the blanks to discover what the women found at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.



(See Luke 24:1-8.)
An angel said to them, "He is not here; he has risen!"
Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Calvary Cross (Graded Cross)

This Latin cross with three steps symbolizes both Jesus' climb up Calvary's mountain and the three gifts of faith, hope and love. Those gifts are intrinsically connected to Jesus' death and resurrection and are ours by sheer grace. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

(1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV).



PUZZLE

Jesus gives us life

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image.
If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)



Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)



Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)



This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)



Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)



Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)



While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)



This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)



These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)



These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)



Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)

Answers: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, tie, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linen, silver coins

**Remember to bring
your basket for
Advent's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt after
9:30 worship on
Easter Sunday.**

