

# ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER MARCH AND EARLY APRIL 2024

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## OH NO

REV. JOSEPH  
SCHATTAUER  
PAILLÉ

A number of years ago, I had a lightbulb moment at our town's Memorial Day commemoration. If you've been to the ceremony before, you know there's a part toward the end when local civic groups place wreaths in front of the town's war memorial. As Dave Swenson and I went out to place our wreath, a thought popped in my head. *I've never done this before, so what are you supposed to do after you put the wreath in the ground? Do you put your hand on your heart? Do you just walk away? Are you supposed to pause or something?* Later on, it occurred to me later that this is probably how many people feel when they're at church.

I was reminded of that moment of panic a few weeks ago while I was chatting with someone who works in church consulting. She mentioned that when newcomers visit a church's website, the number one thing they're looking for is what they're supposed to wear. This is kind of funny, but it also makes sense. People don't want to stand out for doing the "wrong" thing.

The anxieties aren't just sartorial. They're also about when to stand, when to sit, when to kneel, and whether to cross yourself, not to mention how—and whether—you're supposed to receive communion. When you've been around a congregation for a while, you get used to certain ways of doing things. However, for many newcomers, there can be a real anxiety about doing things the "wrong" way.

This is part of why we include some explanatory notes in the bulletin, especially on days when we have lots of newcomers such as Christmas and Easter. It's why we do communion in a way that's reasonably intuitive. (I'm always amazed how complicated some congregations' distribution methods are.) But more than anything, it's about maintaining a culture that invites people to participate fully without being made to feel self-conscious so that they can focus on what's actually important. For what it's worth, I'm not really focused on whether you're "doing it right."

When Rev. Kimberly Vaughn led her hospitality training here a few years ago, one of the things she talked about was how even small gestures like offering someone help or showing someone the hymnal they need can make people feel at ease. Just the other week, I noticed a couple of our congregants helping newcomers by doing just that.

It can be intimidating to go to a new church, but we can all do our part to make sure everyone feels at ease and at home here. Peace and courage.

PS. I will be away the week after Easter to do some family stuff, so this newsletter runs through mid-April as well. You'll get a late April and May one in mid-April.

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## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

5 PM, SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Blessing of palms and abridged reading from St. Mark's passion. Fred Monk serves as cantor.



9:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Blessing of palms and abridged reading from St. Mark's passion. Eunjoo Lee-Huls serves as cantor.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

7 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Celebration of the Eucharist, anointing with oil, and stripping of the altar. Eunjoo Lee-Huls serves as cantor.



### GOOD FRIDAY

7 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Reading of St. John's passion and prayer around the cross. Eunjoo Lee-Huls serves as cantor.



Note: If you need to attend a Good Friday service during the day, Christ Lutheran (Woodcliff Lake), Church of the Savior (Paramus), and St. Timothy (Wayne) offer noon liturgies.

### EASTER

5 PM SATURDAY, MARCH 30

"Mini" Easter Vigil setting. Fred Monk serves as cantor.

9:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Festive mass setting with brass and choral music. Eunjoo Lee-Huls serves as cantor.

10:45 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Activities for children in the memorial garden. (Moved inside if weather uncooperative.)



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Eunjoo will be leading a choir for Easter. Please speak with her for more information. Signups to serve as a liturgical leader are available on our website.



### ABOUT OUR PALMS

Our palms are once again provided by EcoPalms. EcoPalms is a vendor that works with farmers in Mexico and Guatemala to sustainably source palm fronds at a fair wage.

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## CFA EASTER BASKETS

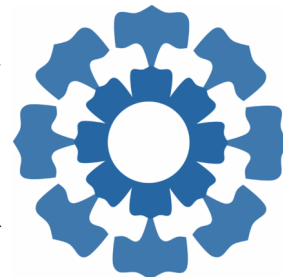
We are collecting Easter treats all month to make Easter baskets for the Center for Food Action. Requested donations include raisins, nuts, dried fruit, 100% juice boxes, granola bars, small pop-top canned fruit, individual bags of crackers, and individually wrapped candy. We will wrap and assemble the baskets after worship on March 17.



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## EASTER FLOWER FUND

You can help beautify the sanctuary by contributing to the flower fund here (please put "flower fund" in notes section) or by mailing a check to the church office with memo "flower fund." (Please note our online giving only supports e-checks, not credit or debit cards.) You may submit a dedication on the sign-up in the narthex or on the "Holy Week" page of our website.



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## ADVENT PLAYERS DEBUT!

The Advent Players debut short film "Everyman" is ready for its debut! We will have screenings after both worship services on March 9 and 10. We'll have refreshments available at both. In addition, our own Ian Havens will be screening a couple of music videos he worked on recently. Stick around after worship!



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## SPRING RETREAT

Our spring retreat is on Saturday, March 16 at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. The cost will be about \$15-20 per person, but we can cover you if cost is prohibitive. The cost can be added to your regular giving.



Some of you have had questions, and I have answers.

**Is the retreat overnight?** No. We'll begin in the morning and leave in the early afternoon. (I have to preside at 5.)

**What are the accommodations like?** We will be meeting in the Lodge space (same as last year). The accommodations are safe, comfortable, and well-maintained, but it's not the Ritz Carlton.

**Will there be other churches there?** Cross Roads regularly offers "public" retreats open to all, but this is a "private" retreat for our community. There will likely be other groups at the facility and in the dining hall, but we have our own space.

**What will we be doing?** We'll be using the "Way of Love" curriculum from the Episcopal Church as a guide. Our focus is on spirituality, fellowship, and renewal. (This is not a strategic planning retreat.) My hope is that you leave feeling more connected to your fellow parishioners, spiritually enriched going into Holy Week, and renewed as you return to your "normal" life.

Please speak with me after worship if you have any questions I didn't answer.

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**MARCH AND  
EARLY APRIL  
AT A GLANCE**

Saturday, Mar. 2	5 PM	Worship
Sunday, Mar. 3	9:30 AM	Worship
Thursday, Mar. 7	10 AM	The Gospels for Everyone/Bible study
Saturday, Mar. 9	5 PM 5:45 PM	Worship “Everyman” Screening
Sunday, Mar. 10	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Worship “Everyman” Screening
Wednesday, Mar. 13	7:30 PM	Hope and Healing Meeting
Thursday, Mar. 14	10 AM	The Gospels for Everyone/Bible study
Saturday, Mar. 16	9 AM—3 PM(ish) 5 PM	Parish Retreat Worship
Sunday, Mar. 17	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Worship Godly Play CFA Easter Basket assembly
Monday, Mar. 18	1 PM	Book Group
Wednesday, Mar. 20	6 PM	Grief Support
Thursday, Mar. 21	10 AM	The Gospels for Everyone/Bible study
Saturday, Mar. 23	5 PM	Worship (Palm Sunday)
Sunday, Mar. 24	9:30 AM	Worship (Palm Sunday)
Thursday, Mar. 28	7 PM	Worship (Maundy Thursday)
Friday, Mar. 29	7 PM	Worship (Good Friday)
Saturday, Mar. 30	5 PM	Worship (“Mini” Easter Vigil)
Sunday, Mar. 31	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Worship (Easter) Kids activities
<i>Monday, Apr. 1 through Sunday, Apr. 7</i>		<i>JSP away</i>
Saturday, Apr. 6	5 PM	Worship
Sunday, Apr. 7	9:30 AM	Worship
Thursday, Apr. 11	10 AM	The Gospels for Everyone/Bible study
Saturday, Apr. 13	5 PM	Worship
Sunday, Apr. 14	9:30 AM	Worship