

April 2020

*A Caring Community Empowered by
God to be Disciples of Christ*



Pray ... Pray ... Pray ...

Dear Friends in Christ,

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down. In one month we have gone from 30 confirmed cases in the U.S. to 300,000; and from 30 deaths at the beginning of March to over 8,000 and counting.

My heart breaks for all the people dying and the first responders and health care workers working so valiantly to save lives. The world needs our prayers more now than ever. **Will you pause to pray every day at noon?** Let's lift up our prayers to God "together" at noon every day, knowing that we are united in prayer for the world. See page 3 for a prayer that you could use. Or you can just talk to God, asking for comfort for the dying, peace for the grieving, healing for the sick, and to help us be of service in the midst of this crisis.

On Wednesdays at noon, Kevin has been ringing the church bell and praying the Lord's Prayer. If you are near Cooksville, you will hear our church bell ringing!

I long for the day when we can safely gather to worship God in song, with prayer, while hearing the Word and celebrating Holy Communion. Until then, we are the church, dispersed yet still One in Jesus, connected with God through the Holy Spirit and to one another by that same Spirit. God bless you as you find ways to worship God, and to listen to God during this time apart, and , to seek God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. —Pastor Karla

HOLY WEEK: WE WILL NOT BE WORSHIPPING TOGETHER DURING HOLY WEEK THIS YEAR. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORSHIP ONLINE. See the synod page of churches to worship with at <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/worship/>. CHECK OUT:

1. ST. JOHN'S IN EVANSVILLE (OR)
2. FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN JANESVILLE
(flcj.org has the list of online worship links).

April Birthdays

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. - Eph. 2:10

3	Betty Hamilton	18	Tim Schneeberger
5	Mark Haakenson	19	Glen Gregerson
7	Chad Wethal	21	Tyler Grant
8	Mark Farberg	23	Jeff Wethal
10	Linda Sime	25	Ken Haakenson
	Judy Hatlen	26	Barbara VanDerHulst
12	Nancy Schneeberger	28	Jeanne Julseth
16	Rhonda Wethal		Mike Wagner
	Joshua Tomlin	29	Roger Berge



Baptism

3/15/2020—

Adeline Eleanor
Conant, born

June 13, 2019 to

Kayla Jane Scheel and Jacob
Dallas Conant. Sponsors:
Colton Vingum and Breanna
Kittleston.



Burial

Kevin N. Fuglestad
(1968-2020) died

on March 19, 2020. Burial was
1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 28,
2020 in Cooksville Cemetery,
Pastor Karla Brekke presided.

The Prayer Group is keeping in touch by
email. Prayer requests are being updated and the team prays
for each one. If you have a prayer request, email Kevin Brekke at
brekkekev3@aol.com or call him at 608-669-1218.

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Evelyn
Beyer, Basil Remley, Pat Foltz, Kristeen Farberg, Bridger Carrol, Jenn
Williamson, Rev. John and Naomi Shep, Louise Kluge, Jean Lademan,
Ramona Whittier, Rev. David Stratton. **CLC Special Friends:** Joyce
Leopold, Anna Hanson, Dorothy Froemming, Ruth Erickson, Virginia
Sime. **Military:** Andrew Newcomb.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD DURING THIS PANDEMIC



Here is a prayer that you can pray, knowing that your church family is also raising these prayers to God.

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected.

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases that create suffering and often result in death for many people.

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: caregivers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine.

Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions. Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing.

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love. Amen.



Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You; at a time of distress...

-Psalm 32:6



Holy Week

Palm Sunday + Maundy Thursday + Good Friday
+ Easter Vigil + The Resurrection of our Lord

Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. (ELW, p. 247). During Holy Week each year the church makes the passage with Christ to Jerusalem, to the cross, through death into life.

Palm Sunday — Passion Sunday.

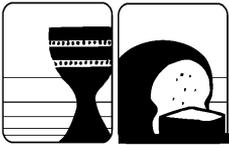
On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation.



The assembly gathers outside the sanctuary to hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from the gospel of Matthew. Then they enter the church singing and waving palms. We follow in his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross. By action and song we welcome Jesus' entry into our lives as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Once in the sanctuary, the mood quickly changes as we listen to the story of **the Passion**. This refers to Jesus' suffering, death, and burial for our sake. How quickly we who sing "Hosanna!" will begin to shout "Crucify him!"

Christ died that we might all know true life as children of the God. St. Paul put it this way: *"Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things ... by making peace through the blood of his cross"* (Colossians 1:20). ☪



Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2020

***See the synod page for online worship of churches in our synod: <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/worship/>. ***See *Worship in the Home* resource for Maundy Thursday at <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/1781/>

On this night we begin **The Three Days** during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life.

- ◆ The Maundy Thursday Gospel includes the words of Jesus' **new commandment** ("mandatum", from which the word "Maundy" comes). From the gospel of John we hear Jesus' words during the Last Supper: *"I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:33-35, NRSV). Jesus demonstrates this new commandment by washing the disciples' feet. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, we may wash one another's feet as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This is the **foot-washing** ceremony. The pastor and a few volunteers usually "represent the congregation" to fulfill this commandment on behalf of the whole congregation.
 - ◆ **The altar is stripped** as we hear Psalm 22 chanted. In this way, we now stand with Jesus during what was originally experienced by him as total abandonment. The evening ends in darkness and silence and without a dismissal. This draws attention to the fact that **THE THREE DAYS** has been celebrated (since the 4th century) as one long liturgy of Christ's Passover from death to life for our salvation. ☩
-



Please send offerings to the church office during these weeks we cannot meet for worship. Thank you!

Cooksville Lutheran Church, 11927 W. Church St.,
Evansville, WI 53536

THE THREE DAYS:

Good Friday

April 10, 2020



Here is a worship service you may do alone or with family members.

Children may create a cross from paper or other material. They may hold their cross throughout this service.

On this day the church gathers to hear the proclamation of the passion, to pray for the life of the world, and to meditate on the life-giving cross. This worship is part two of "The Three Days."

Gather a Bible and light a candle (optional).

◆ **Read Isaiah 53:1-8.**

Background: The prophet weaves a vision of the suffering servant, whose agony is not a sign of God's rejection, but points to the God who brings healing out of suffering.

*Reader: The word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.***

◆ Sing or read together "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (see next pg.)

◆ **The Story of Jesus' Death: Read John 18-19**

Background: The Passion story according to John emphasizes that Jesus is not a victim, but the Victor. He is the "I AM" before whom everyone must bow (see John 18:5). On the cross Jesus announces that the salvation of the world is accomplished, saying, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

1. Jesus is arrested, John 18:1-11
2. Jesus is denied by Peter, John 18:12-27
3. Jesus is arrested, John 18:28-40
4. Jesus is sentenced, John 19:1-16
5. Jesus is crucified and dies, John 19:17-30
6. Jesus is buried, John 19:31-42

◆ **Prayer:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

(Continued on page 8)

Go to Dark Gethsemane

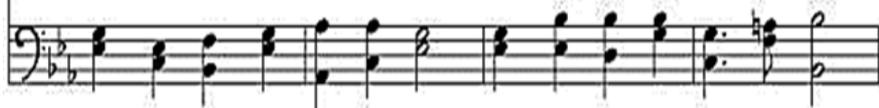
ELW 347



1 Go to dark Geth-se-m - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.



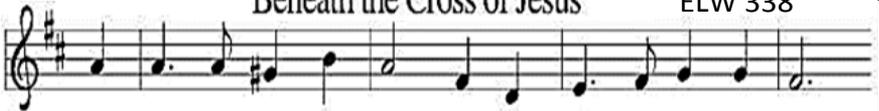
(Continued from page 6)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Sing or read the song below.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW 338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

If you have a lit candle, turn down other lights and meditate for a minute on the love of Jesus Christ for us as shown on the cross. (You could have one person read Philippians 2:5-11).

Leader: We go in peace. **All: Thanks be to God.**



THE THREE DAYS: **Vigil of Easter**

On the night before Easter, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. As early as the 2nd century the Easter Vigil was celebrated with baptisms at sunrise.

In the ancient church the Easter Vigil began sometime after sunset on Holy Saturday and continued till dawn when new converts who had prepared during Lent were baptized and received Holy Communion for the first time. The vigil began with the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

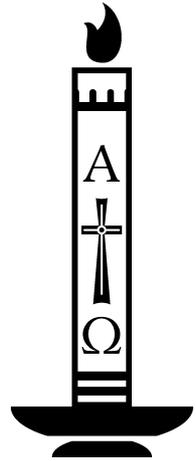
Each year a new paschal candle was lit for the first time from a "new fire," a bonfire, at which the congregation had gathered. Fire has long been seen as a sign of God's presence. The Old Testament is full of examples: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the Temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians thus naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

At the Easter Vigil, the new paschal candle was inscribed with a cross and the letters "alpha" and "omega" from the Greek alphabet (referring to Christ as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end). By the eighth century, the practice had developed of incising the current year on the candle, referring to Christ as the "acceptable year of the Lord." Some of the great

candles weighed up to 300 pounds, although the usual weight was 10-20 pounds. Five grains of incense were usually inserted prior to the blessing, to represent the five wounds of Christ.

The candle is lighted at each celebration of Baptism, and at funerals it stands at the head of the casket. In a visual way, the Paschal candle proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5: in our Baptism we have already died and have been raised with Christ.

The Paschal candle reminds us that Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is pre-eminent. It represents the risen Christ, the Light of the world. It is Christ who lights our way out of darkness and death. ☩



HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 12, 2020



The crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Christ unlocks the real meaning of the Hebrew scriptures in a way previously undreamed of.

"The Bible opens with the creative activity of God on the First Day of the Jewish week. It closes with the vision of John on the Lord's Day of the Christian week." (p. 8) "On the First Day the Lord rose. On this same day he appears to his followers, expounds to them the Scriptures, and eats and drinks with them. It is on the same day that he appears the following week. It is on the First Day that the Holy Spirit is given. The importance of the First Day does not cease with these events. We soon find the Christian community assembling on this day for preaching and the breaking of bread." (H.B. Porter , p. 7)

A New Creation

Jesus was not just “resuscitated.” Instead, Christ inaugurated the “New Creation.” He entered into a new life, a new realm, the new Israel, as the Forerunner for a new race, the first-fruits of a new world.

Easter was the beginning of a new era. Christ our Head is entered into the heavenly places, and our citizenship is there. Yet we are still in our earthly pilgrimage. The actual rising, which is in the past for him, still lies ahead for us. To reach his First Day, we must yet die on Friday and sleep the Sabbath out. So for us the Resurrection Day will come Eighth. In Sunday stands the assurance not only of the victory Christ has accomplished on the Cross but the promise of that victory he wills to accomplish in all our crosses in the future. (H.B. Porter, p. 32, 33)

The above quotes are by H.B. Porter in The Day of Light: The Biblical and Liturgical Meaning of Sunday, The Pastoral Press, 1987.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



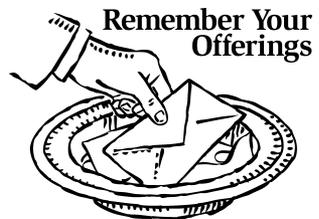
Let's Keep in Touch!

Church office: 608-882-4408; 11927 W. Church St., Evansville, WI 53536

Pastor Karla Brekke: 608-751-0345
cooksvillemethodistpastor@gmail.com

Office: cooksvillemethodist@litewire.net
Betty Hatfield, Secretary.

Minister of Music: Jeanne Julseth: 608-490-1175





Cooksville Lutheran Church

11927 W. Church Street
Evansville, WI 53536

Address Correction Requested

**Let us Pray for the
World ... see pg. 3**