

# Saint Luke's Lutheran Church

## April 2017 Newsletter

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

As you receive this letter we will be a few short days away from ending the liturgical season of Lent and moving into Easter. While the season of Lent has been marked with penance and prayer, this year at Saint Luke's, we have also focused on the theme of "comfort in the Gospel" as seen through the writings of Martin Luther. Fittingly, then, my Easter message this year will be entitled "Receiving Comfort and Hope from the Resurrection." But let's not jump to Easter quite yet...

In my first parish in PA the church I served was...how can I say this nicely...not very liturgically observant. This parish celebrated the major festivals, but did not celebrate Holy Thursday nor Good Friday. In addition, there was not much difference between the season of Lent and any other season in the church year. The first year I was there I, of course, changed all of that. While some of the Methodist-Lutheran strain<sup>1</sup> objected to my alteration back to the proper church year, most were grateful. I had several folks tell me that Easter meant more to them that year than it had meant in a long while. Why? It is because they went through the season of Lent. Let's be honest. Lent is not "fun" or "exciting." Lent calls us to examine ourselves and our sin. Lent reminds us that a price was paid for our salvation. Therefore, I firmly believe we appreciate the amazing message of Easter even more when we hear the "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed" because we first went through Lent. Please know that you are in my prayers the rest of this season, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at worship during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday.

In Christ,

Pastor Josh

<sup>1</sup>These were folks that were "Lutheran in name only." My parish had historically been served by Methodist circuit riders and lay preachers because of its rural location and the church's inability to retain a Confessional Lutheran pastor for more than three years at a time. (BTW – I lasted three years and one week there!)

### EASTER LILIES

It's time to order our lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$10 and you are welcome to take them home after the 10:30 am service. Please use the form found in your bulletin for your purchase.

### WORK DAY

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 am we will be cleaning up our building and grounds for Easter. We have many tasks that need to be completed so please sign-up if you can join us. If you cannot attend but would be willing to work at a different time (perhaps with a friend or two), please talk to Deaconess Kathy. Many hands make light work!

### EASTER BRUNCH

Join us for brunch at 9:30 am Easter Sunday. Church will provide eggs and sausage. Please sign up in the atrium if you plan to attend, and if you would like to bring juice, pastries or cut fruit. Hope to see you there.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the lower level entry doors, rain or shine.

# Weekly Events

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday morning worship services are held at 8:00 and 10:30 am. These identical services are traditional services with music, sermon and Holy Communion.

Tuesdays at noon there is a spoken service. It includes a short homily and Holy Communion.

Wednesdays at 7:15 am there is a spoken service with a Scripture reading and Holy Communion. Because Pastor Baese leads this and comes down from Woodland Park, the closure policy for this service is that if the schools in Colorado Springs or Woodland Park are closed or on a two-hour delay, the service will be cancelled.

**Wednesday Lenten Services** continue Wednesday, April 5, 7 pm. Child care is provided.

### Wednesday Night Suppers

Lenten Soup Supper will continue April 5th 6 pm prior to the last Lenten Vesper Service.

## GIFT SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School/GIFT: Join us for our end of year celebration on April 23<sup>rd</sup> between services. We will be sharing what we learned and how we have grown in our faith as well as having special treats!

## GIFT WEDNESDAY

GIFT Wednesday night, April 5<sup>th</sup> (only):

- 5:00 pm – Celebration Choir (kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 5:30 pm – Christ Kidz (5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger)
- 5:30 pm – Confirmation (6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 6:00 pm – Community Supper (everyone is invited)
- 6:30 pm – Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) (April 5, 12, 19 & 16)
- 7:00 pm – Worship Services

## CHRIST KIDZ

Children 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grade will continue our "Hands on Faith" lessons from 5:30-6:30 pm on April 5. This series involves hands-on science projects, Legos and more to teach about God.

## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for those in 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades will be meeting on April 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:00 pm. "The End of Me", is a new program which focuses on how we can live a life centered on Christ.

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

This group meets on Tuesdays at 10:45 am in the Melancthon Room. Pastor Josh is leading a study on how religious belief has shaped American history. Using the PBS television program, "God in America," they are exploring what role religious ideas and spiritual experience have played in shaping the social, political and cultural life of what has become the world's most religiously diverse nation. It's not too late to join as they explore the historical role of religion in the public life of the United States. We will not meet Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> during Holy Week.

# Holy Week

## **PALM SUNDAY -- April 9**

**8:00 & 10:30 am**

These identical services begin with the account of Jesus' final journey into Jerusalem. We bless palms and children process around the sanctuary behind the cross. Then the service changes tone as we hear the Passion story. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Childcare and Children's Church are available.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 13**

**7:00 pm**

This service begins with the liturgy of corporate confession and absolution. As we came forward on Ash Wednesday to receive the ashen cross as a sign of repentance, on Maundy Thursday we receive absolution and anointing with oil as a sign of forgiveness. We will also celebrate the First Communion of some of our young people. The service ends quite movingly with the stripping of the altar and chancel in remembrance of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Childcare and Children's Church are available.

## **GOOD FRIDAY - April 14**

**7:00 pm**

This service focuses on the Biblical Stations of the Cross with Service of Tenebrae (shadows). The church will be progressively darkened as we walk with Christ on the path of sorrows. This service is moving as we witness Jesus' passion and death. Childcare is available.

## **EASTER VIGIL - April 15**

**7:00 pm**

Also called Paschal Vigil, this service is the first official celebration of the resurrection of Christ. It includes hymns, readings and a powerful liturgy that symbolizes the movement from the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Christ on Easter Sunday. There will be a reception following the service for those interested.

## **EASTER SUNDAY - April 16**

**8:00 & 10:30 am**

We celebrate the Festival of our Lord's Resurrection with choir, brass, bells and Holy Communion. Childcare and Children's Church are available. A full breakfast will be served between the services at 9:30 am. Easter Egg Hunt for children 5th grade and younger at 9:30 am.

# April Events and Notes

## **M.E.S.H. Monday: Experience, Strength, & Hope/NFG**

This group is a fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. They meet Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. Contact Melody at 660-6545 if you have questions.

## **MOPS/MomsNEXT**

MOPS/MomsNEXT is an organization for mothers of children school-aged and younger. This is a wonderful time for moms to come together to support each other as they carry on their important role of motherhood. If you are a mom of children, school-aged and younger, please consider joining us on Tuesday evenings.

We will be meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in Luther Hall. Child care is provided. We will be making vision boards so bring a picture of yourself.

Watch the weekly for second meeting details. If you have questions, please contact Karen Hansen at 814-889-9980 or Shannon Marchese at 719-434-8352.

## **WOMEN'S COFFEE**

The women of Saint Luke's meet on the second Saturday of the month, April 8th at 8:00 am at Panera on North Academy. All are welcome.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Many thanks to Judy Lehman for taking over editing and publishing the monthly newsletter.

## **TUESDAY LUNCH**

Please join us for lunch at 12:45 pm, Tuesday, April 18th at The Silver Pond, 6523 North Academy Blvd. If you haven't joined us before, please consider coming. Sign-up in the atrium if you plan to attend.

## **VISITS WITH PASTOR JOSH**

Want to chat with Pastor Josh? Wednesday afternoon, April 19<sup>th</sup> has been set aside for just that. Sign-up for 45-minute time slot beginning at 3 pm.

## **WOMEN'S FAITH STUDY**

Women's Faith Study will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will be continuing our study on the Holy Spirit. This is a time for women to come together to share their faith and their lives. Please call Deaconess Kathy with questions.

## **GRADUATING SENIORS**

If you are or have a senior who is graduating from either high school or college, please let Deaconess Kathy know by Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please email her at [saintlukes@saintlukes-cs.org](mailto:saintlukes@saintlukes-cs.org) or call the church office at 598-4397. Please include name, school, date of graduation and major, if appropriate. We will publish the information in the weekly during May and in the May Newsletter.

## **NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Watch for profile of our new choir director in the May newsletter.

# Children Center & Summer Activities

## CHILDREN'S CENTER UPDATE

During April, our focus is on celebrating Ester as we remember Jesus dying on the cross for all. We will decorate Easter eggs and hunt for them. We will also learn about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the meaning of Easter Sunday.

Our annual Book Fair is April 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall. We encourage everyone to shop for Easter, as books make great Easter basket gifts.

Other exciting activities include:

- Earth Day Celebration April 22<sup>th</sup>
- The Week of the Young Child is April 24-28

We are currently counting down the days until spring. It has been a mild winter but we are getting anxious to be outside every day.

Hope you have a very blessed Easter!  
Miss Diane, Director  
Saint Luke's Children's Center

## Support K's for Souls Missions

We have a great new way to help offset the cost of mission trips for the youth without costing you anything! Shop your favorite brands thru this link and our fundraiser will earn up to 50% cash back on purchases! We would appreciate you checking it out and sharing the site! Blessings, Lara

Shop now at <https://www.flipgive.com/campaigns/68362-ks-for-souls-missions/store#content>

## FAMILY MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### Summer Dates for Family Ministry

Be sure and watch the weekly for dates for Elitch's, Water World, and a summer retreat.

### Mission Trips

We have finalized some of our mission trip dates for the summer.

- We will be going to Belize June 18-25<sup>th</sup>: The cost is \$1000 per person and this trip is open to families, youth, young adults, and adults. Deadline to register is April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- We will also be traveling to either South Dakota or San Jose in late July for a week of mission work. This trip is being finalized so watch for details.
- Also, adults and youth who are at least 16 years old can join us for our Honduras Mission Trip with Lunches for Learning on August 3-10<sup>th</sup>. This trip is \$1750 and includes all costs except incidentals.

### Vacation Bible School

Mark Your Calendars for Barnyard Roundup on June 12-16<sup>th</sup>. This is for children that are at least 3 years old- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in middle and high school can help with crafts, games and snacks, and we need parents to help during the week as well. Please see Lara if you are interested in helping!

## ONE SERVICE—MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY

May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am

After worshipping together at one service on January 1<sup>st</sup>, many people mentioned that it would be good to do that occasionally. Therefore, the Church Council decided to combine services on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. One service at 9:30 am and we will have a picnic afterwards. Mark your calendars and watch the weekly for further details.

## **Saint Luke's Lutheran Church**

5265 North Union Blvd  
Colorado Springs, Co, 80918

**Return Service Requested**

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

See Page 3 for details

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8 & 10:30 am***

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***EASTER VIGIL, April 15, 7 pm***

***EASTER SUNDAY, April 16,  
8 & 10:30am***

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### **Church Staff**

Pastor:  
The Rev. Joshua J. Hansen

Deaconess:  
Kathy Berrill

Director of Family Ministry:  
Lara Dyer

Children's Center Director:  
Diane Van Horn

Director of Music:  
Keith Lundquist

Business Manager:  
Emily Johnson