

**Wilson Lutheran Church  
401 310<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilson WI 54027  
Address Service Requested**

**Mission Statement  
Gathered. Renewed. Sent**

**We are:  
Gathered by the Spirit.  
Renewed by the Word.  
Sent to Serve**

# *March 2024 Newsletter for Wilson Lutheran Church*

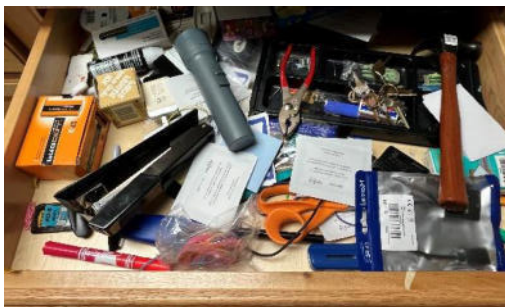


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*Cover Picture by Pastor Doug Brandt*

## Easter 2024: A Message from Bishop Laurie Rummaging for God

*Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!*



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter? Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen<sup>1</sup>. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave, she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

*Rev. Laurie Stan. O'Leary*

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<sup>1</sup> [Rummaging for God: Praying Backwards through Your Day - IgnatianSpirituality.com](https://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

March 2024 –Seasons of Lent and Easter

### **Sunday, March 3 – Lent 3**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 2:13-22: Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

### **Sunday, March 10 – Lent 4**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21: To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

### **Sunday March 17 – Lent 5**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 12:20-33: Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

**Palm Passion Sunday:** “The week, the center of the church’s year, is one of striking contrasts. Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark’s gospel presents Jesus in his compete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ’s suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God’s salvation. In the wine and bread, Jesus promised that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God’s astonishing work.” (*Sundays and Seasons Year B, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis*)

### **Sunday, March 24 – Palm / Passion Sunday**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47: The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

**Maundy Thursday:** “This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ’s last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. . . . Formed into a new body of Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.”  
*(Sundays and Seasons Year B, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis)*

**Thursday, March 28: - Maundy Thursday**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35: The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

**Good Friday:** “Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John’s passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ’s death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.” *(Sundays and Seasons Year B, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis)*

**Friday, March 29: - Good Friday**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: Purple
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:1-2; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 18:1-19:42: On Good Friday, the story of Jesus' passion—from his arrest to his burial—is read in its entirety from the Gospel of John.

**Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday:** “Christ is Risen! Jesus is alive and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary the mother of James and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God’s unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!” *(Sundays and Seasons Year B, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis)*

**Sunday, March 31: - The Resurrection of Our Lord**

- ❖ Liturgy: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 16:1-8: The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

## MISSION STATEMENT

GATHERED – RENEWED – SENT

Gathered by the Spirit. Renewed by the Word. Sent to Serve.

**Pastor's Office Hours:** While Pastor Bob is spending time in the office during his medical leave, attending to the "administrative" stuff of the church, he is not available for emergency call. In the event of an emergency or hospitalization, please contact one of the following pastors who have agreed to provide that coverage:

- Pastor Bob Friese – St. John's Lutheran Church, Sprint Valley
  - 715-778-5935 (Church)
  - 715-308-1681 (Cell)
- Pastor Ben Nelson – Zion Lutheran Church, Woodville
  - 715-698-2707 (Church)
- Pastor Stephen Hilding – Christ Lutheran Church, Menomonie
  - 715-222-2475 (Cell)
- Pastor Paul Backstrom – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Baldwin
  - 715-684-2984 (Church)
  - 952-905-0601 (Cell)
- Pastor Jonathan – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Glenwood City
  - 715-265-4411 (Church)
  - 651-247-2826 (Cell)

**W/ELCA Meetings:** Weather permitting, the next regular meeting will be held Thursday, March 14, beginning with Bible Study at study at 9:30 a.m. Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of each month beginning at 10:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

### Wilson Lutheran Church W/ELCA February Meeting Minutes February 8, 2024

Karen Esanbock called the meeting to order in the absence of President Tracy Davis at 1040

6 members present: Sharon Bowell, Louanne Anderson, Mary Brandt, Linda Rambo, Ginny Overland and Karen Esanbock

Secretary's report read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved. Balance of \$466.14

Old Business:

1. Pancake Supper and Bake Sale:  
Date set for April 25th 4:30-7:00PM, Discussed advertising, plan to follow plan from last year. Will also pursue a Thrivent card to cover expenses.
2. Prayer Chain, Mary will find the folder and finalize

New Business:

1. Bible Study, discussion regarding continuing Bible study from the "Gather" magazine. Will meet at 9:30 AM and Bible study to follow. Mary will lead the study in March.

2. Karen brought forward an idea to continue Susan Dahm's service project of Personal Care Kits for LWR. Motion made by Linda to pursue 'Susan's Mission' with the collection of items for the kits from the congregation and assemble the kits in the fall for donation to LWR and possibly a local cause, second by Louanne, motion carried. Karen will find a receptacle with signage for the Narthex to collect items, put information about the project in the newsletter and bulletin. Tracy will explain the project during a worship service. Plan to have it in place early March.
3. Linda made a motion to purchase Easter cards and mail to shut-ins next month, second by Ginny, motion carried. Sharon will order 2 boxes of cards.
4. Linda brought up discussion about the quilt closet. She has been sorting and organizing. She has donated some items to Hope Gospel that we would not be using. Discussion continued with thoughts of quilting for LWR again. We set a work day for the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:30am. We will start on February 22nd to organize and plan. Karen will obtain the LWR guidelines for quilts for donation there.
5. Sharon clarified the allocation of offering collected at our meetings, 50% is kept in our treasury, 50% is sent to W/ELCA, from that the W/ELCA sends 50% to ELCA Church-wide and keeps 50%.

Meeting adjourned at 1130

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Karen Esanbock, secretary

### **Wilson Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights - February 8, 2024**

Pastor Bob gave his report from the last council meeting. Pastor gave an update on his health. He gave a big Thank You to Chaplain Becky and the congregation for the prayer shawl and the laying on hands.

- The five local Food Pantries sent Thanks for the cash donations from the Virtual Christmas Poinsettias.
- The ELCA Good Gift Program donation has been sent.
- We will be doing Virtual Easter Lilies at \$10.00 each again this year. Proceeds will go to the local food pantries.
- Installation date for council officers and members will be April 14.
- Synod Assembly will be held June 7-8.
- The congregation approved the parking lot project using the overlay method at the annual meeting. WELCA will donate proceeds from the pancake supper. Ideas about fundraising to help pay for the project were discussed.

**Tuesday Community Supper:** Peace Lutheran Church will be serving the Tuesday Community Supper from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The menu is: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables and a Cookie. Please come and invite a friend!

The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane Lutheran, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food.

**Food Pantry Support:** Thank you for your continuing support of our hunger ministry. Your contributions are making a difference. February contributions will go to the Spring Valley Food Shelf with March contributions going to Woodville. We continue to hear about the increase in the number of families using food shelf programs. Plus the elimination of federal food share programs has impacted our senior citizens and those with disabilities, which means local food shelves are in even greater need of our support. Please remember our neighbors in need. Your contributions are making a real-world difference in the lives of others.

**Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers:** There's nothing better than hot bowl of soup on a cold winter evening, but to make that happen we need your soup, bread and you. There's a clip board on the table in the narthex where you can sign up to help.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	Time	EVENT
March 6	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
March 6	7:00 pm	Wednesday Lenten Worship
March 13	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
March 13	7:00 pm	Wednesday Lenten Worship
March 20	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
March 20	7:00 pm	Wednesday Lenten Worship
March 24	9:00 am	Palm / Passion Sunday
March 28	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
March 29	7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
March 31	9:00 am	Easter Sunday Worship

#### ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Month	Altar Care	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Sundays
March	Rex and Janet Brandt	Rex Brandt	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	5 Sundays Palm Sunday; Easter Sunday; Wednesday Eve Lent Services
April	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sundays: Traci Davis 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays: Sue Timm	Peggy Timm	Barb Knopps and Becca Stoltman	4 Sundays

Please check the clipboards on the table in the narthex for months still needing your help. If you're unable to serve the entire month, perhaps you could share the Sundays with another person? Please let Pastor Bob know if you are able to help, or sign up on the sheets in the narthex.

#### ACOLYTE and READER SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Acolyte	Reader
March			
	3	Lucie	Rex Brandt
	10	Owen	Ryan Peterson
	17	Aran	Tracy Davis
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	24	Brady	Barb Knopps
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	28	Lucie	Doug Faber
<i>Good Friday</i>	29	Owen	Sherry Ellefson
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	31	Aran and Brady	Janet Brandt

Month	Date	Acolyte	Reader
April			
	7	Lucie	Becca Stoltman
	14	Owen	Owen Hauge
	21	Aran	Ginny Overland
	28	Brady	Kathy Borton

**PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH 2024**

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Mar 1	Rian Lamb	Mar 10	Aran Peterson	Mar 19	Charles & Sharon Bowell
Mar 1	Taylor Anderson	Mar 13	Karen Johnson	Mar 23	Dennis & Barbara Blegen
Mar 4	DJ Faber	Mar 14	Elizabeth Brandvold	Mar 26	DJ & Michelle Faber
Mar 9	Kevin Finder	Mar 27	Robert Dahm		
Mar 9	Kurt Larson	Mar 28	Aaron Chouinard		

**Vanco (GivePlus) Online Program:** Want an easy way to make your weekly offering? The Vanco GivePlus Online Giving Program allows you to set up your regular offerings for “auto-pay”, eliminating the need to write an offering check each week. Special one-time donations are an additional option. Contributions may be made to the General, Benevolence, Memorial, or Building Funds. Gifts to the Memorial and Building Funds may be designated for specific projects, such as the parking lot resurfacing. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover are accepted, or you can contribute using your financial institution's debit card, checking or savings account. To set up your GivePlus account, visit our Web site at [www.wilsonlutheran.org](http://www.wilsonlutheran.org) and click the “Give Online” link in the menu bar near the top of the Home page. Contact Pastor Bob if you need help.

**VIRTUAL EASTER LILIES**

Council has decided to return to the Virtual Easter Lily program this year. Virtual Easter Lilies may be purchased for \$10.00 each, with all proceeds going to support the food pantries at Baldwin, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Spring Valley and Woodville.

To join in serving our neighbors in need of food support, complete the order form attached to this newsletter and return it to the church office, along with a check made payable to Wilson Lutheran Church. We’d like to receive all orders by Sunday, March 17 so we have time to get all the Easter Lilies in the windows for Easter Sunday. Thank you for supporting this important ministry



**PASTOR’S UPDATE**

The journey continues. Last Friday was my 22<sup>nd</sup> of 30 radiation treatments. I had been told that, as time went on, it was likely those treatments would be accompanied by increasing levels of fatigue. That seems to be holding true as it’s gradually hitting me harder as time goes on. The recliner has become a good friend 🤖. The good news is my last radiation treatment will be March 6, but that will also be a chemo treatment day. Those usually starting kicking me about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after, then taking about 5 more days to get back to some level of normal in terms of energy. I’m also told that will get to be more of a challenge each time. My last chemo will be March 27. Somehow that seems appropriate, since it’s also my birthday.

I continue to be blessed by the love and support I’ve received from all of you. There’s not a day that goes by without a phone call, card, email, or text message from one or more of you. Please know how much those mean to me.



**WILSON LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LIVE EASTER LILY ORDER FORM**

**Given By:**

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**In Memory of:**

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**In Honor of:**

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**Number of Lilies Give: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 17**

**Make check payable to Wilson Lutheran Church, and return to the church office at:  
401 310<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilson, WI. 54027 by Sunday, March 17.**





Continuing

# Susan's Missions<sup>™</sup>



## Personal Care Kits

This project is in honor of Susan Dahm. She was always concerned about the welfare of others. One of the many ways she showed this was to assemble and donate NUMEROUS Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We would like to honor Susan by continuing this mission. If you would like to participate by donating any items for these kits here is the information for you.

### SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

The Women's group of Wilson Lutheran will assemble the kits as supplies are received and package them to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief and/or local missions. Thank You.



## PERSONAL CARE KITS

LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF

**Revised Common Lectionary**  
**Daily Readings – Year B**  
**March 2024**

Date	Day	Psalm	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
1	Friday	Psalm 19	Exodus 19:9b-15	Acts 7:30-40	
2	Saturday	Psalm 19	Exodus 19:16-25		Mark 9:2-8
3	Sunday	Psalm 19	Exodus 20:1-17	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
4	Monday	Psalm 84	1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22	1 Corinthians 3:10-23	
5	Tuesday	Psalm 84	2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19	Hebrews 9:23-28	
6	Wednesday	Psalm 84	Ezra 6:1-16		Mark 11:15-19
7	Thursday	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Genesis 9:8-17	Ephesians 1:3-6	
8	Friday	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Daniel 12:5-13	Ephesians 1:7-14	
9	Saturday	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Numbers 20:22-29		John 3:1-13
10	Sunday	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Numbers 21:4-9	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
11	Monday	Psalm 107:1-16	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 3:1-6	
12	Tuesday	Psalm 107:1-16	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:6-13	
13	Wednesday	Psalm 107:1-16	Isaiah 60:15-22		John 8:12-20
14	Thursday	Psalm 51:1-12	Isaiah 30:15-18	Hebrews 4:1-13	
15	Friday	Psalm 51:1-12	Exodus 30:1-10	Hebrews 4:14-5:4	
16	Saturday	Psalm 51:1-12	Habakkuk 3:2-13		John 12:1-11
17	Sunday	Psalm 51:1-12	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
18	Monday	Psalm 119:9-16	Isaiah 43:8-13	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	
19	Tuesday	Psalm 119:9-16	Isaiah 44:1-8	Acts 2:14-24	
20	Wednesday	Psalm 119:9-16	Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23		John 12:34-50
21	Thursday	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Deuteronomy 16:1-8	Philippians 2:1-11	
22	Friday	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Jeremiah 33:1-9	Philippians 2:12-18	
23	Saturday	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Jeremiah 33:10-16		Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
24	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Psalm 31:9-16	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47
25	Monday	Psalm 36:5-11	Isaiah 42:1-9	Hebrews 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
26	Tuesday	Psalm 71:1-14	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
27	Wednesday	Psalm 70	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
28	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 12:1-14	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-19:42
29	<b>Good Friday</b>	Psalm 22	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 18:1-10:42
30	Saturday	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	Job 14:1-14	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-60
31	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Psalm 103:4-23	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**Prayer Ventures**  
**March 2024**

**1** *Women's History Month* Give thanks for women throughout history and in our lives who have shared their gifts and leadership with the church and society, raised and cared for us, inspired us and nurtured our faith, and fought for justice, equity and inclusion. Pray for women everywhere who suffer injustice, demeaning stereotypes, violence and poverty, that they will not lose hope but will be delivered from their suffering and persecution to live freely and boldly.

**2** Pray for our neighbors and siblings in Christ who have been driven from their homes and communities by conflict, persecution, disaster, political turmoil, economic crisis or the effects of climate change.

**3** *Bold Women's Day (Women of the ELCA)* Celebrate and give thanks for Lutheran women who act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ through prayer, service to neighbors in need, advocacy, leadership, hospitality and telling their stories of faith.

**4** Promise that we will never use our faith, our service to neighbors or our identity as followers of Christ to benefit ourselves, enhance our reputations or earn a profit. Ask the Spirit to nurture in us humility, generosity and gratitude for the gift of grace and salvation God has given us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**5** Remember in prayer individuals, families and communities as they continue to recover from natural disasters, and ask God to give them strength, resilience and hope. Promise that we will persist in our commitment to support and assist these individuals, families and communities through a process that can be long, difficult and lonely.

**6** There are those who consider our beliefs and faith to be foolish and misguided. Pray for the Spirit to deepen our understanding of God's wisdom and ways, strengthen our faith in Christ and guide our imperfect words and actions to convey God's merciful love for humankind, so that others will be moved to believe and to follow Jesus Christ.

**7** Pray for the children and youth in your congregation, and for young adults involved in long-term volunteer

service, careers, military service or study at colleges, universities, trade schools or seminaries.

**8** "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). Praise God for being attentive to our thoughts, prayers and lamentations — spoken and unspoken.

**9** Thank God for the ELCA's special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

**10** Pray that we will clearly see God's relationship with humanity and the implications for our daily life when we reflect on the familiar proclamation Jesus made: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

**11** Ask God to bless the Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers working alongside our companion churches and organizations in six countries around the world and in the Cambodia program, which will reopen this year.

**12** Give thanks for the food we receive and for those who grow, manage, harvest and prepare our food resources. Promise to respond to the needs of our neighbors and siblings in Christ who are hungry, and pray that the work we do together through ELCA World Hunger will have a deep and sustained impact.

**13** At the heart of our faith is the belief that, though we are weak and imperfect, we are saved from ourselves and given new life through God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Lift up humble prayers of thanksgiving to God!

**14** Pray for the ELCA Justice for Women program, which helps us work from our faith and Lutheran theology to educate, advocate for change and lead into the future, addressing sexism and encouraging all genders to work together.

**15** Sing for joy and give thanks to God for providing comfort in times of distress, healing us when we are broken and reassuring us that we are valued when we feel insignificant.

**16** Remember in prayer seminarians and international students preparing to serve as leaders in the church and society, including those supported through ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships, the International Women Leaders program and the International Leaders Program.

**17** Reflect on the people for whom you have concern. Pray for them and commit yourself to expressing your love and care in a personal way — an in-person conversation; a phone call offering help; a note, text or email.

**18** Pray for the work of the Creation Care Network, which connects the ELCA with ecumenical ministries and organizations that equip us to be faithful stewards of God's creation.

**19** *First day of spring* Praise our Creator and give thanks for the sun and the heavenly bodies of the universe, which impact every aspect of life and reflect the amazing creativity, mystery and power of God.

**20** Let our Lenten prayer for today be: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 51:1-2).

**21** Remember in prayer youth, adults and congregations preparing for their faith-stirring experience at the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events in New Orleans this summer.

**22** Rejoice and give thanks for the wonderful variety of songs and musical styles that calm, energize, unite and inspire us.

**23** Pray for God to open our hearts and minds to the needs of our neighbors and to guide our responses of love, support and advocacy. Give thanks for the ways our church encourages and provides opportunities for service and volunteerism, including Young Adults in Global Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Young Adult Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Response and "God's work. Our hands." Sunday.

**24** *Palm Sunday* With shouts of "Hosanna!" and the waving of palm branches, we plead for Jesus to save us and welcome him into our lives and the world as our true hope and salvation — the risen Messiah and Savior,

who endured betrayal, suffering, public ridicule and death for the sake of all people.

**25** Ask the Spirit to help us when we feel ill-prepared to talk about our faith, that we might tell the story of God's love and mercy revealed in Jesus and how our faith in Christ shapes our daily lives.

**26** Lift up prayers of confession for the things we have done or failed to do that cause harm to others and grieve God. Plead for forgiveness and redemption, trusting that God is our ever-present hope and merciful Redeemer.

**27** Give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses — our community of faith and our siblings in Christ — who help us persevere when we are tired and discouraged.


**28** *Maundy Thursday* On this last day of Lent, pray that we will be mindful of the needs and struggles of our neighbors and siblings in Christ and that we will respond as followers of Jesus, reminded by our baptism to serve others with a respect and sincerity that reflect the abundant love and mercy God has shown us.

**29** *Good Friday* Pray that, when we gather, worship and study as siblings in Christ, we will encourage one another to grow in faith, understanding and gratitude for God's sacrificial, life-giving love, witnessed in Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

**30** Much of what we profess to believe may seem like a mystery to us and others. Ask the Spirit to help us live with the mystery and, at the same time, to grow in faith and awe of the triune God, who claims and gathers us close as loved children.

**31** *Easter Sunday* Praise God that sin, fear and death have no control over us — Jesus Christ has risen for the redemption and healing of humanity! "Christ is living! Gone with sorrow! Tears and terror, be no more" (*All Creation Sings* 934).

# MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Pastor Bob on Medical Leave for the month.</b> </div>					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	4	5	6 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Worship <b>Pastor Bob's Last Radiation Treatment</b>	7	8	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School	11	12 9:30 – St. Croix Conference Meeting	13 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Worship	14 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 WELCA Meeting 12:30 Council Meeting	15	16
17 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18	19 First Day of Spring  	20 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lent Worship	21	22	23
<b>24 Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	25	26	27 <b>Pastor Bob's Last Chemo Treatment</b>	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	30
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	April 1	2	3	4	5	6