

Connections in Christ

*"Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit -
Called to Serve"*

A monthly publication from St. John's Lutheran Church
April 2021



New Cross is installed

We collaborated with a company called *Design Fugitives*, who specializes in art installations for religious institutions, to create an original, one of a kind cross/crown installation for the new space.

We have broken away from the Lutheran tradition of a vertical/ horizontal cross design by choosing a conception that gives a new, fresh perspective of Jesus on the cross. The cross is a more abstract design, but when looked at straight on is clearly recognizable as the shape of Jesus on the cross. It is made up of glass-like acrylic in clear blue and white, with small bits of red to symbolize where Jesus's hands, feet and side were pierced and where the crown of thorns was placed on his head. One "hand" is inviting the congregation to join in worship and the other is blessing His people. At the heart, is an eternal flame, to show that His love for us never wavers and is everlasting.

The cross is suspended away from the wall, to reveal the empty wall behind it, representing the empty tomb and the risen

Christ. Above the cross, around the lighting ring, is a large crown made up of linear strands of acrylic in blues, greens, and clears, which echo the shape of the white lines in our stained glass windows. This is meant to be both the crown of thorns and a crown of victory, reminding us that Jesus overcame death for our sake.

Laura Nott of the Building Improvement Team





Holy Week

During the season of Lent we have been trying to make more room for God in our lives. We want to realize the peace and perspective that comes from God whether we are emotionally on the mountaintop or in the darkest valley. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. Holy week commemorates the events of our Lord's last week before His death.

PALM SUNDAY



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday we remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey and was welcomed by the crowds of people waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna". In celebration of this day our church will be decorated with palms and each member and visitor of our congregation will receive a palm upon entering the sanctuary. The liturgical color for Palm Sunday is red. Since red symbolizes shed blood it is used on Palm Sunday to symbolize the impending death of Jesus on the cross.

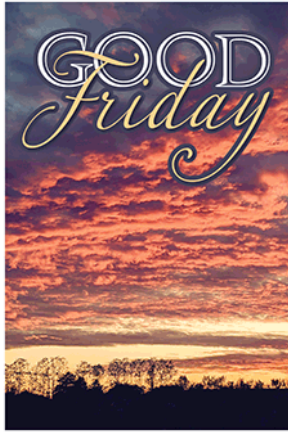
MAUNDY THURSDAY



Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday is the evening where we recall the events that took place the night Jesus was betrayed. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (mandatum, from which Maundy comes) "to love one another". This night is the anniversary of the Lord's Supper and therefore a memorable event. After communion has ended the Stripping of the Altar takes place. The Altar Guild with the help of the acolytes will remove all vessels, books, linens, paraments, candles and the cross from the Altar and Chancel area. This ancient ritual is a powerful and dramatic reenactment of the Lord's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers.

Today, the color purple takes on an additional meaning for us. The soldiers who crucified Jesus put a purple robe on Him and then mocked Him, calling Him the "King of the Jews". When they had finished making fun of Him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him out to nail Him to the cross.

There is no benediction this evening as the service continues on Good Friday. The congregation leaves in silence.

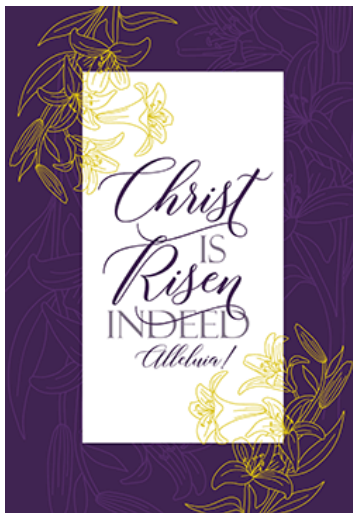


GOOD FRIDAY

On this day, we commemorate Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and suffering, death and burial. We honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing and salvation. With all of God's people we are invited to bow before this mystery of faith. Christ died so that we may live. The Altar and Chancel are bare. Good Friday is a day of mourning, both for the death of Jesus and for the sins of the world that His death represents. The term "Good Friday" is apparently an English corruption of "God's Friday". The term is very fitting since the Lord's death was good for us because He died so that our sins will be forgiven.

EASTER SUNDAY

This is the day of our Lord's Resurrection! His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. Marking the end of Lent, Easter is the greatest holiday and celebration of Christianity. Our chancel will be decorated with Easter lilies.



This beautiful trumpet shaped white flower symbolizes purity, joy, hope and life which is the spiritual essence of Easter. Often called the "white robed apostles of hope", lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's perspiration fell to the ground in His final hours of sorrow and deep distress.

The liturgical colors for Easter are white and gold. White symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death. The gold symbolizes the light of the world brought by the risen

Christ. Our paraments and Easter lilies are white and gold. White hangings with gold crosses adorn our front entrance.

The date of Easter was established in the year 325 and is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

NEW EASTER BANNER

During this time of fear and uncertainty in the world, when we are not able to gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we are blessed to have a new Easter banner to grace our sanctuary. This banner has been conceived of and designed by Altar Guild over a period of two years arriving in time to remind us of the hope and joy of Christ's resurrection. The concept of the design came from Shirley Miller, longtime chairman of St. John's Altar Guild and mentor to many. It is given as a gift in memory of Pauline Champion, John Glassmaker, Ron Evert, and Don Linstroth by their families and friends.

The Latin cross in the banner came into use in the 2nd or 3rd century and the empty cross is a reminder of Christ's resurrection. The butterfly represents spiritual rebirth, transformation, and joy. The caterpillar disappears into a cocoon, appearing dead, just as Christ was laid in the tomb after the crucifixion. Later, it emerges, transformed into something more beautiful and powerful than it was. "So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.

Jesus calls us as children of God to the greatest honor of being branches on His vine, gathering strength and living our lives as branches of the true vine of Christ. "I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:5

HE LIVES!

This article was written last year in the hopes that we might be able to gather for Easter Sunday Services; obviously, that didn't happen. This year for the first time the beautiful banner will help us celebrate Easter.





Ed & Melissa Swanson:

Things are buzzing at the Mitla Center even though we have only 3 residents and no workshops. Ed and his maintenance team are working with a local contractor to put a dome roof over the existing auditorium roof that has suffered chronic leaks. Melissa is back at the Center Administrator desk shuffling papers, organizing fumigation of empty apartments and preparing for a sale of old linens and such. Ryan is still job hunting, but Paul surprised us with news that he got a job offer with Gulfstream in Appleton, so he is back working as an aviation mechanic soon!

Lori Lehnherr:

Covid numbers are improving in Costa Rica. Vaccinations are happening very slowly with limited vaccine available.

The first week in March we hosted a weeklong conference on our campus for 22 people from various mission organizations. With distancing, facemasks, lots of hand sanitizer, doors and windows open to help with ventilation we studied grief, loss, stress and burnout as we learned how to debrief cross cultural missionaries and their families.

With God's help, I desire to more easily adapt to the crazy changes we're in right now and help my team to do the same. Being resilient means we have the tools we need so we can continue in our ministry of sharing the Good News here in Costa Rica and beyond despite the challenges and unexpected twists. Will you pray for me to grow in resilience with good resources to share so we together have a greater impact in ministry?

Thank you for partnering with me in this ministry.

April 2021 Calendar

Please see <http://stjohnsoregonwis.org/event-calendar> for most current calendar.

Thursday, April 1	6:30 PM Maundy Thursday In-Person Worship
Friday, April 2	Church Office Closed 5:00 AM Basketball 9:00AM Online Good Friday Worship 2:00PM Good Friday In-Person Worship 6:30PM Good Friday In-Person Worship
Sunday, April 4	9:00 AM Online Worship 9:00 AM In-Person Easter Worship 10:30 AM Easter Worship
Monday, April 5	6:00PM Personnel Team 6:30PM Property Team 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 168
Tuesday, April 6	9:00-11:00AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Transition Team
Thursday, April 8	4:00 PM-7:00PM Oregon Area Food Pantry
Friday, April 9	Church Office Closed 5:00AM Basketball
Saturday, April 10	5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, April 11	9:00 AM Online Worship 9:00 AM In-Person Worship 9:50AM Bible Storytime with Jen 9:50AM Transition Team Conversation
Monday, April 12	6:30 PM Worship Team Meeting 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 168
Tuesday, April 13	9:00-11:00AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 11:00AM Staff Meeting
Friday, April 16	Church Office Closed 5:00AM Basketball
Saturday, April 17	10:00 AM Property Team Workday 5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, April 18	9:00AM Online Worship 9:00AM In-Person Worship 9:50AM Bible Storytime with Jen 9:50 Transition Team Conversation
Monday, April 19	6:30PM Finance Team Meeting 7:00 PM Endowment & Memorial Board 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 168 7:30PM Council Exec Meeting
Tuesday, April 20	Newsletter Articles due by end of day 9:00AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 11:00AM Staff Meeting 1:00PM Altar Guild 1:00 pm 6:30PM Transition Team

Wednesday, April 21	6:30 PM 7th Grade Confirmation (Online) 7:30 PM 8th Grade Confirmation (online)
April 22, Thursday	9:00-11:00AM Oregon Area Food Pantry
April 23, Friday	Church Office Closed 5:00AM Basketball
April 24, Saturday	10:00AM St. John's Workday 5:00 PM In-Person Worship
April 25, Sunday	9:00 AM Online Worship 9:00 AM In-Person Worship 9:50AM Bible Storytime with Jen 9:50AM Transition Team Conversation 6:30 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Class (online)
April 26, Monday	7:00 PM Council Meeting 7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 168
April 27, Tuesday	9:00-11:00AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 11:00AM Staff Meeting
April 28, Wednesday	6:30 PM 7th Grade Confirmation (Online) 7:30 PM 8th Grade Confirmation (online)
April 30, Friday	Church Office Closed 5:00AM Basketball



THE COMMUNION TABLE:

Early in our discussion of changing the Sanctuary, the Building Improvement Team, decided we would no longer be using the pews that were in there. We made it known that they were available. We had a member of another church take some, and also Jason Miller, the husband of Sandra Linstroth's granddaughter, Kasey, took some. Jason had the idea of making a table(s) from a pew in memory of Don Linstroth. The decision was made by members of the Altar Guild, of which Sandra is a member, to have one long table which will hold the communion trays. The table is similar in design to our current altar. The wood used was from a pew that Don Linstroth no doubt sat on during worship. This is a beautiful tribute to Don. Currently the table is being used for the trays of

communion wine and juice for the 9 a.m. service and is in the Gathering Area. It will eventually be placed in the Sanctuary. We members of St. John's are very appreciative of Jason designing and constructing this table which will keep Don's memory vivid for those of us who knew him, and know his wife, Sandra. Thanks, Jason. *Submitted by Karen Kruel of the Building Improvement Team*

FEBRUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Summary	February	2021	2021 Budget 100%	2021 % of Budget	2021 Difference	2019*
Church:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>				<u>Actual</u>
Operating Income	\$ 34,925.88	\$ 71,738.19	\$607,303.34	11.81%	\$ (535,565.15)	\$84,429.08
Operating Expenses	\$ 56,159.68	\$ 91,250.19	\$607,303.34	15.03%	\$ (516,053.15)	\$86,666.54
Net Income (Net Loss)	\$ (21,233.80)	\$ (19,512.00)	\$ -		\$ (19,512.00)	(\$2,237.46)
Capital Campaign:					Bal 12/31/20	\$5,244.27
CC-Income	\$ 28,079.11	\$ 48,835.57			Income	\$ 48,835.57
CC-Loan	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00				\$ 80,000.00
CC-Expenses	\$ 99,098.70	\$ 101,968.89			Expense	\$101,968.89
Net Income (Net Loss)	\$ 8,980.41	\$ 26,866.68			Bal 2/28/21	\$32,110.95

*Comparison figures are for 2019, not 2020

February had 2 payrolls and 4 weekends of income. February expenses are greater than income by **(\$21,233.80)**; YTD expenses are greater than income by **(\$19,512.00)**.

OFFERINGS REMINDER: Your continued financial giving is important to the health of our congregation, our synod, and the church at large – especially now. Your generosity is appreciated as we work together to continue to support our mission. There are several easy ways for you to get your offerings to St. John's: 1) Mail your offerings to the office. 2) Automatic Giving - call the church office and leave a message for Shirley Schiffner. She will return your call and assist you in signing up for auto giving. 3) Venmo: www.venmo.com/StJohnsOregonWI
4) It's also easy to [GIVE ONLINE HERE](#)

APRIL READINGS

April 4
Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 11
Second Sunday
of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2::2
John 20:19-31

April 18
Third Sunday
of Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25
Fourth Sunday
Of Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



Bible Readings

We wanted to share with you the words of the song, *Build Your Kingdom Here*, sung by Soulvation band at the end of worship on Palm Sunday, March 28. It's a favorite song here at St. John's, but hearing the words again at this time in the Covid-19 Pandemic, the words inspire new meaning!

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth



May **God** continue to
bless us; let all the
ends of the earth
revere him.

Psalm 67:7, NRSV

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth

Happy Birthday!

*May God go with you shining your way
with blessings of wisdom and
understanding.*

4/1 Rodney Nedlose, Kari Niemeyer
John Fosler,
Brooklynn Gahagan,
4/2 Linda Largent, 4/16 Katie Borden
Marcella Larson, 4/18 Sadie Gaberell,
Benjamin Kaeppler Peter Hagstrom
4/3 Helmut Jeschke, 4/19 Shirley
April Nindorf, Naomi Schiffner, Connor
Rockwell, Andrew Jordan
Seitz
4/4 Blake Anderson, 4/21 Lynanne Fosler,
Emily Konop, Edward Showers,
Clarence Schuch Dariene Zimmerman
4/5 Janice Lawry 4/22 David Lund,
4/6 Claire Gaberell, Ervin Meister, Lynn
Bill Kracke, Kim Schulz, Hayes Hamm
Maerz
4/7 David Baldus, Lee 4/23 Greg Konop,
Christensen, Judi Way Gregory Kosharek
4/8 Abby Breitbach, 4/24 Susan Mihlbauer,
Ryan Niemeyer, Lindsey Swiggum,
Breckin Wamsley Finley Williams
4/9 Laura Dewey, 4/25 Erin Dammen,
Oscar Larson Konrad Plachetta,
Nessa Kuhlman
4/10 Sonny MacLeod, 4/26 Dana Olson
Howard Wienholtz
4/11 Cheryl Schulz, 4/27 KayLeigh
Jenna Sharkus, Justin Hubert, Richie
Sharkus, David Bergemann
Stensaas
4/12 Gloria Oelke, Joe 4/28 Elyse Johnson,
Sharkus, Connor Nora Johnson, Rich
Schulz, Slater
4/14 Jen Kooistra, 4/29 Ronald Nybroten
Felou McElroy, Amy
Zimmerman
4/15 Owen Massey,

Baptismal Anniversaries

*Marked and sealed with the cross
of Christ forever!*

4/1 Catherine 4/27 Jaxon Heitz
Atkinson, Audrey
Appel, Sheila 4/28 Andie U'Ren,
Andersen, Leroy Peyton Cate
Schumacher 4/29 Mason Lathrop
4/2 Gloria Christensen, 4/30 Nora Earle
Barbara Christensen,
Bill Brown, Ed
Showers
4/3 Linda Glassmaker
4/4 Dorothy White
4/6 Wanda Ace
4/7 John Carter,
Wendy Kleckler, Rick
Kleckler
4/10 Laura Dewey
4/11 Anna Wangen
4/12 Chloe Gahagan,
Nicholas Borden
4/14 Celia Ebert
4/16 AJ Stoffels
4/17 Cayce Swenson,
Cylie Swenson
4/19 Blake Gaschke,
Kaylee Parsons, Claire
Bergeland
4/22 Harper Carr
4/24 Brynley Murphy
4/25 Cameron Lathrop
4/26 Xavier U'Ren



Serving in April

Altar Care: Nell Mittelsteadt, Sandi Linstroth, Linda Glassmaker

Organist/Pianist: Ondra Williams

Spirit Singer (Saturday 5:00 PM): Dennis Josi

Soulvation Members: Doug Kohls, Shane Dammen, Aaron Johnson, Sheryl Lindmeier, Laura Nott, Scott Bourie, Michael Berens-VanHeest, Ondra Williams

Audio Visual Operators: David Klarich, Carson Nott, Gage Klarich and Odessa Klarich

Chancel Choir Members: Rachel Berens-VanHeest, Kay Bliefernicht, Jean Brown, Dan Cobb, Sherryl Cobb, John Cuta, Sara Fishwild, Sarah Johnson, Pierre LaPlante, Doug Schuette, Allen Siedschlag, Ann Starr, Jessica Theisen

Chime Choir: Fern Binger, Maureen Braatz, Jean Brown, Sara Fishwild, Kathy Hansen, Kathy Larson, Brenda Outhouse, Pam Parsons, Coralie Smith, Ann Starr, Laura Berg



St. John's Prayer Chain

Did you know that when you have a prayer request you can call or email the prayer chain? Then the prayers will be sent on their way with many praying for you!

Prayers are not made public in the newsletter or during Worship unless permission is received.

To let the prayer chain know of your prayer, contact:

- Rose Lehnherr at 835-5300, rlenherr6@gmail.com
- Fern Binger at 455-8021, lfbinger@frontier.com
- Laura McGoveran in the church office at 291-4311 or lauraM@sjlserve.net

Active Duty Military Personnel

Army Captain Eric Christensen, (grandson of Roger and Barb Christensen, in officer training)

CM2 Jacob Gothard (grandson of Sandra Linstroth)

Staff Sergeant Curtis Hanna (grandson of Carol Hanna)

Airman Kean Paltz (son of Ron and Teri Paltz)

Homebound

Norma Jenkins, Myrtle Lundey, Beverly Reindahl, Ruth Yaun, Sheila Andersen

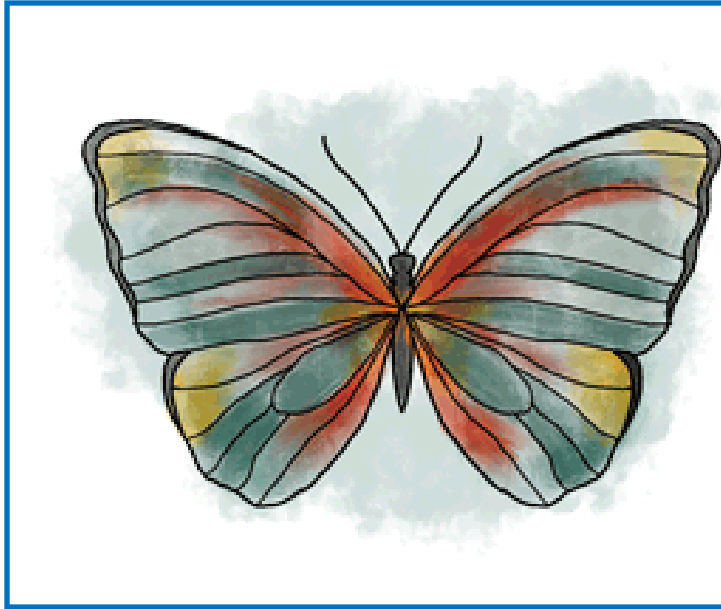
Other Facilities: Shirley Miller (Kettle Park Senior Living) Fred & Gladys Sage (Skaalen Heights Senior Home) Darlene Dorn (Skaalen Home), Ken Hagemann (Main Street Corners); Beatrice

Larsen (Oakwood Village, Madison), Alice Nason (Elmcroft, Madison), Roger Lawry (Bee Hive, Oregon)

LOIS HAGEMEN HAS BEEN DISCHARGED FROM FOUR WINDS, VERONA AND IS AT HOME

Prayer Requests for:

Rich Knipfer with Hospice Care at home, Sandi Linstroth's young great niece, Ana, receiving Hospice Care at home. Friends and family Ann Morris who passed away March 17. Sally Mueller at Agrace Hospice.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

ST. JOHN'S PHONE: (608) 291-4311

Emergency Contact:

Pastor Naomi Garber

Cell Phone: 701.388.4788

E-MAIL:

Pastor Naomi@sjlserve.net

JenK@sjlserve.net

OndraW@sjlserve.net

LauraM@sjlserve.net

ShirleyS@sjlserve.net

BarbD@sjlserve.net

cstaveness@gmail.com

“Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit - Called to Serve”

We are St. John's!

St. John's has the best of both worlds. Established and time-honored traditions that bind us together, and the contemporary, welcoming atmosphere many people are looking for in today's churches. Our mission is simple: **Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit - Called to Serve.** As grace filled and Spirit led people, we love God through weekly worship and through loving service of our neighbor. If you are interested in learning more about St. John's or in becoming a member, please contact the church office or visit the Welcome Center to learn more.

Publication

“Connections in Christ” is published monthly. Deadline for article submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

Church Services

Worship Services are in person, and YouTube, at 9:00AM. You can also view the service on local cable, Sunday at 9:00AM.

Address

625 E. Netherwood St.
Oregon, WI 53575

Office Hours

8:00AM -4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Website:

<http://stjohnsoregonwi.org>

Public Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi)

Facebook Group for the Members of St. John's:

[facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi)

YouTube Channel:

[youtube.com/c/stjohnslutheranchurchoregonwi](https://www.youtube.com/c/stjohnslutheranchurchoregonwi)

Twitter:

[Twitter.com/stjohnsoregonwi](https://twitter.com/stjohnsoregonwi)

Instagram:

[Instagram.com/sthonsoregonwi](https://www.instagram.com/sthonsoregonwi)

Questions? Contact Sheryl Lindmeier at:

sheryllindmeier@gmail.com