



# APRIL 2025



Partners  
in Ministry

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

1409 South Eighth Avenue, East  
Newton, Iowa 50208  
Church Phone: (641) 792-1683  
www.HTLchurch.com

P.O. Box 242, 8290 Hwy. F-62, East  
Sully, IA 50251  
Church Phone: (641)-798-4651  
www.standluth.com

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Serving God and others through  
the Evangelical Lutheran Churches  
of America

## **Words from Pastor Kari Lee's Pen.**

### **We are getting so close to Easter.**

But before we get to Easter, we must go through Holy Week.

And to get through Holy Week we must go through: fear, grief, despair, confusion, disengagement, and doubt. If we do not go through and experience these then we do not experience the sudden joy of the resurrection. And to be sure, Jesus Christ will rise from the dead regardless of how we prepare for it. But to truly know the beauty of Easter, we must acknowledge and give name to what the resurrection came to defeat.

1. Christ rose from the dead to defeat the power of your fears. Does this mean we do not find things to be afraid of? Goodness no. We are human and our survival depends on our ability to stay alive by identifying threats through fear. But we no longer avoid walking into Jerusalem, that city of opulence that is known for killing prophets. We no longer avoid going to the tomb because we are afraid of those who consider us enemies of the law and order of an empire. We know that whether we live or die we are the lords. So, we fear no evil and we are not ruled by hate.
2. Christ's resurrection means we no longer grieve forever. For what and who have passed away are not gone forever but are in safe keeping. The parent who mourns her child shall be reunited with them. The orphan, the widowed, the homeless will be given a family and home. Nothing that God made is lost, simply reclaimed and taken home. While the

sin and brokenness that once touched them is destroyed.

3. Resurrection defeats the power of despair. Those who have been brought low by the cruelty of existence shall know what it is to be lifted up on eagles' wings by the hope of God's promises.
4. The confusion of why these hateful horrible things happen at breakneck speed will be consumed by a God who exists outside of time but still has mercy to enter into our time to work for justice and peace. We lean not on our own understanding but trust in the mysterious and unfailing goodness of God.
5. The disengagement that threatens to tempt us to sin by giving up our purpose as caretakers of this world shall be eradicated. Did the people of Jerusalem go home and talk about what had taken place in their streets? Or did they go home and stay silent because the horror and grief was too much? Did they self-medicate their trauma because there was no safe person to listen and help them heal? And God still speaks, and we do not forget, and the Holy Spirit advocates with sighs too deep for us to express that not even this shall silence our love and hope for God's promises.
6. Resurrection reshapes our doubt from something to be feared into a space where God is welcomed in. Doubt is not a condemnation; it is proof of what is deeply yearned for but not yet known. Resurrection

answers doubt by showing that there is nothing in this existence, no heights, depths, rulers of nations, things past or present or things to come that can conquer God's love for us in Christ Jesus. God is still working. And God reveals all things in God's time.

I don't know about you. But after naming all of those heavy realities I would welcome some sudden joy. I need good news of God's victory over all these things that happened - not just in the past but are happening all around us. Hurt people are still hurting others. The powerful keep seeking power. The vulnerable are still being taken advantage of. Those different from others are still being villainized. All around this whole creation the world is groaning in pain. All of God's creation, not just the land of milk and honey that we call our home. The evils of humanities sin continue to crucify some other part of creation that was made good and made in God's image. It's tempting to consider skipping all this ick to go straight to the end of the story. But it's not what Christ did. And if we are to imitate Christ, we must also learn from this painful part of his teaching. We must follow him through Holy Week and even BEYOND the sudden joy of Easter to get to the strength of what Paul tells us in Romans.

*“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”* Romans 5:8-11

Holy Week is when we do not look away from how the empires that conquered us, and the empires we helped build, have always killed the lamb of peace who came - not to conquer us but - came to defeat sin and death. Take heart. You are not God's enemy. These things that we must acknowledge at this time will not have the final say over you. But the one who does have the final say over you bids you to care for this world we were given to be stewards of. Face Holy Week my sibling in Christ, so that we may be transformed into Easter people.

*Pastor Kari Lee*

### Earth-shaking victory

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing:

“While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

“Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity.”

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - 2025 Service Helper List**

Date	Greeter	Lector	Candle Lighting	Comm. Acolit	Alter Guild
4/6/25	John & Barb Freeborn	Jessica Winegar	Valerie Peart	John Freeborn	Barb Freeborn
4/13/25	Nancy Wright	Vicky Bell	Stella Pettlon		
4/20/25	Carol Naeseth	Sophia Bell	Jacob Bell		
4/27/25	Doug & Jaci Bell	Doug Bell	Henry Sharp		
5/4/25	Brad & Teri Bowlin	Nancy Wright	Eva Peart	Amy Collum	Katie Neleman
5/11/25	Mark Bell	Teri Bowlin	Hannah Neleman		
5/18/25	Todd & Melanie Sharp	Jessica Winegar	Sophia Bell		
5/25/25	Marcia Goodrich	Vicky Bell	Kahlia Sharp		
6/1/24	Mark & Amy Collum Beth, Madie & Charly	Sophia Bell	Hudson Winegar	Vicky Bell	Carol Naeseth

Lent comes from a word that means spring, and spring is “springing” this April.  
May our faith spring up in new life as well, through this time.

Lord God, we imagine ourselves along the route you traveled into Jerusalem,  
beloved Jesus. We lay branches along your donkey's path and praise you:

“Hosanna, Son of David!”

We are grateful for the mix of doubt and faith the disciples exhibited; it puts us in  
good company. Jesus, bless us with increased belief, even when we cannot see you  
in person. We praise and thank you Lord, for all that you endured for us.

We pray this in Jesuse Holy name.

Amen



### *The blessing of fellowship*

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament.

Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone.

They know that visible fellowship is a blessing. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

There will be an egg hunt at Holy Trinity following  
Easter Sunday Service for all the kids!

We can't wait to see you there.



## Bible Quiz

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"



In March, our mission support to the synod was \$1,056.

Our monthly mission for March was for the Clearview Recovery Center and a total donation of \$1,120 was sent.

Our mission emphasis for April will be for Lutheran Services in Iowa. LSI is one of Iowa's largest human services agencies with over 20 sites throughout Iowa. They provide services to people of all ages, from infant to the elderly, that span a wide range of issues -- from therapy and intensive crisis intervention with families; to community support for individuals with disabilities. To donate to this month's mission, please write "LSI" on the special offering line on your offering envelopes.

We are collecting receipts from the Newton Hy-Vee on behalf of Jasper County Hunger Relief. We are currently about \$18,000 from our \$100,000 goal to earn a \$1,000 donation from Hy-Vee. There is a manila envelope on the table in the church office where you can put your receipts, or you can give them to Bill Bennett, Jr.



## OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C→↓ ↓
2. H→↑ →
3. V↑→ ↓
4. I←←↑
5. T↑←←
6. P↑→→↓
7. D↓→↓ ↓
8. T↑←←←



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

\_\_\_\_\_ into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV



## Creation care

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts, asked troop members to “leave this world a little better than you found it.” For Christians, that aim is rooted in Scripture.

Using a Bible-like parable, biology professor Michael Duncan writes: “Imagine you owned a property and rented it out to tenants for a period of time. Upon move-in, the tenants found the place clean and in perfect working order. As the owner of the property, it is your desire to see that the tenants regard the condition of the property and live in such a way that does not destroy the house. This is the mindset that we should adopt as tenants living on the earth.”

Almost five centuries ago, John Calvin encouraged creation care too. “The earth was given to man, with this condition, that he should occupy himself in its cultivation,” he wrote. “Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits, that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence, but let him endeavor to hand it down to posterity as he received it, or even better cultivated. Moreover, that this economy, and this diligence, with respect to those good things which God has given us to enjoy, may flourish among us; let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses.”



### SUNDAY MORNING ASSISTANTS

4/06/25	Karen Lee	Karen Lee
4/13/25	Vicky Bennett	Vicky Bennett
4/20/25	Ange Sevenbergen	Ange Sevenbergen
4/27/25	Bill Bennett, Jr.	Bill Bennett, Jr.

### USHERS/GREETERS

4/06/25	Laura Bazel & Beccy Ver Heul
4/13/25	Bill & Linda Bennett
4/20/25	Keith & Kathy Sevenbergen
4/27/25	Wes & Sue Ranard

### ACOLYTES

Runa or Eloise
Runa or Eloise
Runa or Eloise
Runa or Eloise

Any questions contact Linda Bennett  
Phone 641-218-1547



**Marcia Goodrich**  
(April 10th)

**Hannah Neleman**  
(April 16th)

**Peggy Hiemstra**  
(April 26th)

**Kari Lee**  
(April 29th)

**McKenzie Downing**  
(April 29th)

**Melanie Sharp**  
(April 30th)

## Christian symbol

**PALM BRANCH** — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus’ crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God’s throne.





## Holy Trinity/ St. Andrew's Lutheran

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Worship Times are as follows...

St. Andrew's  
Worship and Sunday school  
9:00am  
Fellowship  
10:00am

Holy Trinity  
Worship 10:30am  
Fellowship 11:30am.



### Holy Week Schedule

4/13 Palm Sunday Home Congregations  
4/17 6pm Maundy Thursday St. Andrew's  
4/18 6pm Good Friday Holy Trinity  
4/20 Easter Sunday Home Congregations

**There is no Wednesday Lenten service during Holy Week.**