



THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

***** *March 2018* *****

Reading the **Passion History** during Lent

Dear Servant of Christ,

As part of our midweek Lenten worship, we include, each week, a reading from the Passion History of our Lord. This history is a compilation (from the four Gospels) of the period in the life of Jesus covering His entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion) and leading to His crucifixion on Mount Calvary.

Included in this history are the events of Maundy Thursday (washing of the disciples' feet; prediction of His betrayal; institution of the Lord's Supper). The Maundy Thursday narrative continues with His journey and struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane and His arrest. The night and early morning hours see His trial, beating and the unfolding events of Good Friday which ends in His crucifixion and death.

We are introduced to political figures: Pontius Pilate and King Herod. We shamefully witness the flight of the "faithful" disciples. Jesus' words to the "powers that be" are few but staggering. Jesus' words to sinners, relatives, and His heavenly Father—Father forgive them; You will be with Me in paradise; Woman, here is your son; My God, WHY?; I thirst; It is finished; Father, My spirit is Yours—haunt, challenge, and humble us 2,000 years later.

The Passion History is riveting, a reminder, a pause for reflection. AND its reading is a cause for rejoicing. For in the pain, sorrow, cruelty, betrayal, death of this history is the anticipation of a glorious, beyond-belief ending: the proclamation on Easter that **He is not here, He is risen . . . just as He said.**

Include mid-week services in your Lenten journey so you can hear again this Passion History. If you are unable to attend, be sure to read your devotional booklets. Remember, in this crazy, disheartening world, the ministry, sufferings, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is *not* "fake news."

In Christ's love,
Ron

Mid-week Lenten worship continues on Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the home of Ray & Mary Collins, 222 Stamy Rd., in Robins. The **I AM** statements of Jesus are the basis of the meditations.

Lenten Devotional & Study Materials are available on the information table.

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion)

Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 pm

Friday, March 30: Good Friday worship at 6:30 pm



IMAGES AND WORDS

Palm branch: an ancient symbol of victory used by the disciples as Jesus entered into Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday we carry palm branches, often in a procession into the sanctuary.

Paschal sacrifice: (Hebrew: *pesah*, Passover). Paschal is a term for Easter borrowed from the Jewish feast of Passover at which a lamb was sacrificed for sin. As the Jews celebrated God's Passover rescue of His people from slavery, so Christians celebrate their liberation from sin's bondage through the sacrifice of the "paschal" Lamb of God.

The Triduum or "three days" technically includes the three 24-hour periods from the evening of Maundy Thursday through evening on Easter Sunday.

Hosanna is the Hebrew expression "Lord, save us!" This was shouted in solemn procession in the ancient Jewish festival of Tabernacles, where it turns into a shout of jubilation with thoughts that the Lord really will appear to save us. So it was that in Jesus God came to save us. This is what the chanting crowds recognized on Palm Sunday.

Violet may continue as the Lenten color during Holy Week. In some churches scarlet/red is used from Sunday through Wednesday, white or scarlet on Thursday, and black or striped altar on Good Friday.

A darkened church on Good Friday, usually stripped bare of its colorful decorations, the cross shrouded in black.



Easter Vigil is on Saturday evening at which a Paschal Candle (purchased anew each year for the Vigil) is lit as a reminder of the risen Savior, Light of the World.

The Prophets Speak Again class begins March 4

March 4 - Who Were the Prophets?
 What Did the Prophets Do?
 Why Did God Send the Prophets?



March 11 - Isaiah: The Light That Has
 Already Shined

March 18 - Jeremiah: The Prophet
 Who Was Kidnapped

March 25 - Ezekiel: The Bones That Rattled Into Life

Lenten Offerings Will Go To Water Mission

Water Mission has provided safe water or sanitation to over 3,300,000 people in 53 countries. Donations are allocated as follows: 83% for programs; 11% for fundraising; 6% general and administration. *Water Mission* focuses on three things:

1. Safe Water Solutions: develop the water source; test and treat the water; store and protect the water; create access points to distribute water.
2. Sanitation Solutions: The most economical and effective solution provided is the Healthy Latrine pour flush toilet.
3. WASH Promotion: Community developers work with trained volunteers to promote awareness and practice of healthy water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) behaviors.



There's an old phrase: "Give a cup of water in the Master's name."
 Here is your opportunity!

Called to Serve

March Servants

Greeter/Usher: Ray Collins
 Communion Assistant: Jackie Opperman
 Snacks:
 **March 4—Mary Collins
 **March 11—Ron Voss
 **March 18— Judy Waugh
 **March 25—Jackie Opperman
 FLOWERS: Mary Collins



GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY Of FAITH WORDS

- Intercede:** Speak or ask for mercy on behalf of another.
- Invocation:** From the Latin for “call upon”; for Christians, a prayer invoking or calling upon the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- Israel:** The name that means “he strives with God.” God gave this name to Jacob, and it became the name of the chosen Old Testament nation that descended from Abraham.
- Judah:** Descendants of one of Jacob’s sons and the tribal lands that were their inheritance.
- Mediator:** One who prays or speaks on behalf of others.
- Petition:** A solemn request; the Lord’s Prayer is divided into seven petitions.
- Prophet:** One called by God to speak for Him, preach His Word, point to the Savior.



Outreach Visitation continues through the winter months as weather permits. Let Ron know if you would like to tag along. We invite, we share the good news of Jesus, we encourage.

March Outreach/Mission Support

\$333 - The North American Lutheran Church General Fund

\$500 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenton, Virginia (view its ministry on [www:trinitylutheranva.org](http://www.trinitylutheranva.org))

Thank you for your faithful giving that allows us to support various mission efforts!

The purpose of the Great Commission Society of the NALC is to mobilize disciples for the work of the Great Commission. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that is in desperate need of the Good news. We propose to do this by networking congregations and individuals who have a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel and a commitment to the calling of the Great Commission.