Welcome
4th Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Sunday Worship during Lent retains a spirit of praise and thanksgiving, while yet being more penitential in character than usual.

THE HIDDEN DANGER OF PLAYING THE BLAME GAME

UNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church’s Mission is the Great Commission: 

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Union Evangelical Lutheran Church’s Vision: One Relationship at a Time

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ http://ulcsalisbury.org

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)
9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor -pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

A charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee
arr. Lawson

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 448

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear;
3 Through man y dangers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has promised good to me; His

Dm Bb F
GREETING
The minister greets the congregation.
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☉ Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie continued on page 4
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted during Lent. “Alleluia” is from the Hebrew expression meaning “praise the Lord” and is therefore omitted during Lent. As a result our focus during this Lenten Season is to mourn our sin and to look at what distracts us from an authentic relationship with God.

THE SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace, may mercifully be relieved; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” 6 Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

4
PSALM 107:1-9 *spoken in unison*

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever.
2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
3 He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
4 Some wandered in desert wastes; they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
5 They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits languished within them.
6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
7 He put their feet on a straight path to go to a city where they might dwell.
8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.
9 For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

1 You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and merci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.
The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

{Jesus said to Nicodemus,} “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, \(^{15}\) that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. \(^{16}\) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. \(^{17}\) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. \(^{18}\) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. \(^{19}\) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. \(^{20}\) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. \(^{21}\) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Heidi Punt

Playing the Blame Game - first enemy of a good and healthy relationship.

Please stand as you are able.
NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen
THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE PEACE

In an attempt to be vigilant and responsible, please use Hand Sanitizers provided at each entrance. Please refrain from shaking hands and reserve a little space between one another. Nods, elbows, or gentle pat on the shoulders, etc., are welcome!

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards Gerald Bame Scholarship Fund. If you wish to contribute to Benevolence, please mark your envelope accordingly. For the month of March, offerings towards Benevolence Fund will go towards Lutheran Services Carolinas unless otherwise designated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P  Blessed are you,
C  O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P  The Lord be with you.
C  And also with you.
P  Lift up your hearts.
C  We lift them to the Lord.
P  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C  It is right to give our thanks and praise.
P  It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Presence of all his people, in the courts of the Lord’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

At Union Evangelical Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
2 May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
4 When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream

Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
My zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Savior, then, in love Fear and dis-

guilt away, Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!
love to thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
tears away, Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.
trust remove; Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!
Come to the Table

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord’s invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.
Please stand as you are able.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

P  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C  Amen

CANTICLE

A post-communion canticle or an appropriate hymn or song may be sung.

P  Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C  Amen
BLESSING
The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P    The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C    Amen
THE SENDING
The minister may dismiss the congregation.

P  Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Next Week’s Readings (March 21):
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Those Serving in March

Acolytes: Felisaty and Dusty Morgan
Altar Guild: Cathy Painther and Jennifer Curlee
Communion Assistants: Tara Davis, Vicki Hunter, and Franklin Merrell
Lay Readers: Dusty Morgan Jr. Family
Ushers: Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), Elbert Kluttz, and Ronald Vellines

All benevolence envelope offerings for March will be designated for Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC). LSC provides with the help of volunteers, donors, and advocates the following services: children foster care, advocates for the mentally ill, help for those with disabilities, children adoption services, and help for survivors of human trafficking. These are just a few of the services they provide. We hope you will include a donation in your giving for this much needed service.

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) Setting II (page 77-97)
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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, Ruth Monroe, and Jane Peeler, (Autumn Care), Jean Ray (Brookdale), and Betty Denker (Trinity Oaks, Apt. 123B)

**Homebound Members** - Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Grace Morgan, Frances Norris, Zarah Plyler, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton


**Continual Prayer** - Genevieve Baker, Nancy Ballew (mother of Kat Clifton), Evonne Batten (mother of Lisa Morgan), Yvette Bates (coworker of Karen Barringer), Vanna Calloway (friend of Kat Clifton), Arnold Cauble, Lynn Coughenour, Ophelia Curlee (sister-in-law of Grace Morgan), Karen DeMunbrun (niece of Grace Morgan), June Fraley, James, Amy Lowder Harrison, and Jesse Morgan, Jr., Teresa Kesler, Glenn and Betty Sue Lowder, David Mitchell (friend of Pete Nguyen), Della Morgan (mother of Pam Vellines), Dusty Morgan Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), Hong Nguyen (mother of Pete Nguyen), John Oddie, Jr. (brother of Ruby Leazer and Ruth Myers), Steven and Malynda Peeler, Steve Pless (friend of Pete Nguyen), Meredith Kesler Trail (daughter of Howell and Teresa Kesler), Jamie Troutman (nephew of Lynn Coughenour), and Union Fire Department #76

**Bible Course 101 Participants:** Judy Boyd, Phil and Linda Cauble, Lynn Coughenour, Scott and Jennifer Curlee, Don and Tara Davis, Brad and Jan Huffman, Steve and Mary Hutchens, Deena Lanning, Janie Lesley, Gladys Morgan, Karen Morgan, Sonya Mulkey, Cathy Painther, and Doris Shepherd

*Remember in Prayer List Note: We strive to list the prayer requests and names correctly. Please let us know if a correction is needed or you would like a name added/or returned to the list. If there is a name that can be removed, please contact the church office with that information as well. In an effort to keep the list current, we will update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known prolonged/ongoing issues. Thank you!*
Union News...

Sunday’s Activities (March 14):

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary
   Topic: Playing the Blame Game
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
   Topic: Playing the Blame Game
6:00 p.m. Calling ALL YOUTH, you are invited to
   Pastor Heidi’s house, 175 Winter Flake Drive, Statesville (28677)
   2021 Church Yearbooks are available from the Ushers.

Date change: Deadline to turn in articles for the April Newsletter to the church office.

During Lent, instead of flowers on the Altar bare branches are given to the Glory of God
in observance of the Lenten season.

This Week’s Activities:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., Mar. 16</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Acts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Mar. 17</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Acts)</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m. Lenten Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Lenten Supper (Dutch Meeting Hall)</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Sanctuary)</td>
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<td>Thur., Mar. 18</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Executive Committee</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Long Range/Stewardship Committee</td>
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<td>Fri., Mar. 19</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. Game Night</td>
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Next Sunday’s Activities (March 21):

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary
   Topic: Fool Me Once, Shame on You; Fool Me Twice; Shame on Me
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please practice social distancing)
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
   Topic: Fool Me Once, Shame on You; Fool Me Twice; Shame on Me
3:00 p.m. Church Council

Genevieve Baker, UELC Staff Support, will be out of the office from March 23-26.
The church office will be open in her absence.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School is a wonderful time to be with your friends and to make new ones in a smaller setting where you can connect the Word of God to your daily life, learn of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and grow in faith together. Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM, and there are age appropriate classes for children, teens, and adults alike.

During COVID-19 the Sunday School Teachers will take turns teaching classrooms for all ages.

Please remember to practice social distancing.

If you wish to participate but are at health risk, please contact Pastor Heidi to stay connected via Zoom.

2021 CHURCH YEARBOOKS

Our 2021 Church Yearbooks will be available during the week of Sunday, March 14-Saturday, March 27, in the Narthex. Ushers will handout as you enter the Sanctuary.

Please bear in mind that this is a working directory and not an official roll of the congregation. We hope it is correct, but would be glad to know of any errors you may find so that we may make corrections. The only way we may know of any change in your address is that you or a member of your family keep us informed. Please do us this favor.

A CALLED MEETING of the CONGREGATION will be held following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, March 28. The purpose of the meeting will be reviewing and approving the 2021 Yearbook.

Sunday Morning

Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.

March 21 Prophet of Wisdom - Psalm 25:1-10; 2 Kings 22; 2 Kings 22:14-20
Easter Breakfast during Sunday School
April 11 The Faith-In-Action - Ezekiel 18:25-32; Ezra 9-10; Ezra 10:1-12

Worship Services Opportunities during the month of March

Sanctuary Worship at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion celebrated. This worship service is structured specifically for those who have high risk health and other concerns. Worship will include a brief spoken liturgy, no singing or music, masks are required, Holy Communion will be celebrated with a sealed individual communion unit, and social distancing strictly practiced.

Sanctuary Worship at 10:30 a.m. We gather weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate God's Word and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and to hear and experience God's creative and redeeming love for the world. Children are welcome and are invited to attend worship and come forward for the Children's Message. (CDC guidelines followed)

During COVID-19 we are offering the following if you do not feel comfortable worshipping in person you can: 1. Worship online by visiting our webpage (https://ulcsalisbury.org/worship/) 2. Connect with us on Facebook Live (https://facebook.com/ulcsalisbury) 3. Request a worship DVD
We are excited to announce that we will again be offering the Stations of the Cross this year during Holy Week, however we need YOUR help! 12 crosses are needed. If you are able to assist in building crosses, please contact Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 or Elbert Kluttz (704) 633-3484.

Mid-Week Lenten Series  
**PLACES of the PASSION**

Lenten Services loose offering received will go towards the Franz Merrell Community Crisis Fund.

**Two ways to be able to participate:**
- 3:30 pm – Prayer Service (masks required)
- 6:30 pm – Worship (CDC guidelines followed)

**Mid-Week Lenten Suppers** beginning on **Wednesdays, February 24-March 24**, at **5:45 p.m.** in the Dutch Meeting Hall. If you wish to assist, please contact Tara Davis or Mike Cauble.

**March 17** - **The Courtyard**  
Led by Pastor Heidi Punt  
Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 4 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation. In this service, we go to the Courtyard, outside of where Jesus is put on trial before the high priest and where Peter denies Jesus. We are called to confess that we often tend to distance ourselves from Christ, when we should be drawing closer to him.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:57-69  
**Topic:** While Jesus is put on trial before the high priest, Peter denies Jesus in this place.

**March 24** - **Pilate’s Judgment Hall**  
Led by Pastor Heidi Punt  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:11-23  
**Topic:** Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead

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**Church Work Day**  
**Saturday, March 27**

Come join us for a church work day both inside and outside on **Saturday, March 27**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Bring your supplies, tools and anything you think could be useful. **Working together we can accomplish so much as we prepare for Holy Week!**

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Mark your calendars now...You may also want to know that after the Good Friday Service, April 2, a Prayer Vigil will be held. We strongly encourage you to please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex or contact Pastor Heidi.

**Also, on Good Friday, our youth will have a lock-in at 7:30 p.m. We invite the Congregation to sponsor a youth member (funds will go towards Youth Retreats/Trips).**

If you would like to participate by sponsoring the youth or can assist with the Lock-in, please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex or contact Pastor Heidi. Thank you!
PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28
9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

As Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday we are drawn into the dramatic turn of events of the last days of Jesus’ life. On Sunday he is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy and roaring “hosannas.” By the end of the week he will be betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by Passover pilgrims and his closest friends. Things turn quickly from a parade to a death sentence which is carried out on a cross between two thieves.

Journey with us through Holy Week at Union Lutheran Church. We will begin with having palms available to place at the cross outside on Palm Sunday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year beginning on Monday afternoon, March 29, we will have the opportunity to drive to each Station of the Cross for meditation and prayer. Every station resembles the journey Christ took from Gethsemane to Golgatha. This can be a moving experience for individuals and families. Please plan to prayerfully participate in this very personal walk with Jesus. A booklet will be available before the first station to guide you.

MAundy Thursday, April 1
3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus’ last supper with his disciples where he institutes what the church knows as the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As a sign of his servant-love, Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and gave them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he has loved them. We see ourselves in the disciples, who will abandon their Lord in various ways as Jesus makes his way to the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2
3:30 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

This holy day recalls the last hours of Jesus’ life as the suffering servant is nailed to the cross, fulfilling his mission as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The sinless One takes on humanity’s sin as he is betrayed by his closest companions, arrested and sentenced to a shameful death, even as Pontius Pilate finds no fault in him. We see ourselves in the angry crowd and lament our own denial of our Lord.

The Worship & Music Committee invites you to help us bring spring in the Sanctuary this Easter Sunday, April 4. As we make our way through Lent to the glory of Easter morning we look forward to members bringing in their own beautiful spring potted flowers. Examples are tulips, hydrangeas, geraniums, peace lily, gerbera daisies, etc.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Schedule:
8:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Breakfast
   (during the Sunday School hour)
10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion)

The resurrection of our Lord ushers in a new reality for those who believe: a new life in Christ. God, who shows no partiality, offers salvation and forgiveness to all who believe. Our confession of faith in the resurrection of Christ is a commitment to a deeper walk with God: one characterized by worship, prayer, and an intentional living out of Jesus’ kingdom principles. This Good News is something we have no choice but to respond to.