

April Newsletter

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From The Pastors Desk: On Prayer

To build on this season of lent and the continued craziness of this world, I am drawn to reflect on prayer. When thinking of prayer, so many different thoughts can arise. Most thoughts hinge on the fact that prayer is a conversation between you and God, but sometimes that doesn't seem like enough theological framework to what prayer really is. Sometimes it seems as though prayer should be a more "holy conversation", reserved for times that you think you actually need God's help and guidance, and sometimes you might even think that there are more or less appropriate times and places to pray; so you feel reservations about praying where people might judge you as being "over-pious".

But God does not need any fancy words, special hand placement, or even for us to be in a certain physical place (a church for example). The most eloquent prayer is no better or worse than simply praying to God saying "I need you," or "thank you." God does not value the prayers of someone with a master's degree more than those of a child who is still learning what life even is. Rather, God requests that we pray to him at all times, in times of trials, times of thanksgiving, and all things in between.

And even knowing that it does not take any special words to properly pray to God, we still get anxious about praying. Many (if not most) people prefer not to pray in front of other people. Praying on your own can sometimes seem daunting; you know those times when you start a prayer and somehow wander so far off the path that you kinda forgot you were in the middle of praying...

Luckily, we humans have been the same for thousands of years. Let me direct your attention to Paul's letter to the Romans:

"²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8).

We do not know how to pray as we should, but we can give thanks to God that he knows our needs before we even ask for them. Nevertheless, we should still pray. Prayer keeps us in active conversation with God, reminds us of who God is to us, and helps us understand that no matter how our prayers get answered, God is always with us.

As we continue on through this year, we continue to pray and put our hope in the One that will never let us down; the One that hears our every prayer and gives us what we need (even if it's in unexpected ways). And whenever you come to a time of doubt or worry about your day or how you should pray, pray as Jesus has taught: Our Father who art in heaven...

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Max Whitehead



April Calendar

Wednesday, April 2

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Meal & Confirmation
 7:00 PM Lenten Service
 8:00 PM Council Mtg
 8:00 PM VCIS

Saturday, April 5

9:00 AM Church Cleaning

Sunday, April 6

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM **Worship Service**
 1:00 PM Bible Study @ Bethany

Wednesday, April 9

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
 7:00 PM Lenten Service
 8:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

~~9:00 AM~~ No Sunday School
 9:30 AM Sunday School Brunch
10:30 AM **Worship Service**

Wednesday, April 16

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday (SVLC)

7:00 PM **Worship Service**

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday (OSLC)

7:00 PM **Worship Service**

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

~~9:00 AM~~ No Sunday School
10:30 AM **Worship Service**

Wednesday, April 23

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 27

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM **Worship Service**

Looking Ahead To April

Wednesday, April 2

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Meal & Confirmation
 7:00 PM Lenten Service
 8:00 PM Council Mtg
 8:00 PM VCIS

Saturday, April 5

9:00 AM Church Cleaning

Sunday, April 6

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM **Worship Service**
 1:00 PM Bible Study @ Bethany

Wednesday, April 9

2:00 PM Zoom Bible Study
 2:00 PM Bible Study (Parsons Ins)
~~3:45 PM~~ No Jr. VCIS
~~5:30 PM~~ No Confirmation
 7:00 PM Lenten Service
 8:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

~~9:00 AM~~ No Sunday School
 9:00 AM Sunday School Brunch
10:30 AM **Worship Service**

Committee's of the Month

The committee reads Scriptures on Sundays each month. Confirmed youth of members are included. The list of duties is on the bulletin board.

April

Chad & Belinda Holm
 Matt & Sharon Wirth
 Steven & Linda Holmberg,
 Shelly Wray

May

Steven & Linda Holmberg,
 James Christopherson,
 Joe & Teddy Schafer

June

Jay and Melanie Parsons
 Fred and Janet Holmberg
 Loren and Michelle Johnson
 Ellie Whitehead

Worship Helpers

Sunday, April 6 (Communion)

Reader Belinda Holm
 Acolyte/Communion Helper Anna Jo
 Live Stream Maxx/Godwin
 Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Easter Sunday, April 20 (Communion)

Reader Steven Holmberg
 Acolyte Anna Jo
 Live Stream Maxx/Godwin
 Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Palm Sunday, April 13 (Communion)

Reader VCIS
 Acolyte Lyla
 Live Stream Maxx/Godwin
 Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, April 27 (Contemporary)

Reader Matt Wirth
 Acolyte/Communion Helper Stetson
 Live Stream Maxx/Godwin
 Organist/Pianist Praise Band

Good Friday, April 18

Reader Steven Holmberg
 Acolyte Bailee & Quinn
 Live Stream Maxx/Godwin
 Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

April Scripture Readings

April 6: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8
 April 13: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
 April 17: Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35
 April 18: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42
 April 20: Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
 April 27: Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31- Acts 5:27-32

April Lenten Worship Schedule

April 2
 Time: 7:00PM Preacher: Reverend Reagen Location: Church of the Nazarene

April 9
 Time: 7:00PM Preacher: Reverend Randy Location: Spring Valley Lutheran Church



1st Sunday Luther League
 2nd Sunday Sunday School
 3rd Sunday Committee of the Month
 4th Sunday VCIS
 5th Sunday Committee of the month

Thank You Volunteers!

You Are Appreciated!



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Sunday School invites the congregation to a brunch on Palm Sunday, starting a 9:30 AM on April 13, 2025. We hope to see you there!

JESUS LOVES YOU



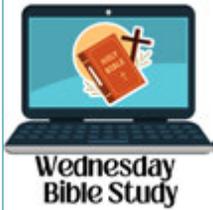
On April 6, 2025, immediately following the worship service, we will hold a congregational vote to initiate collaboration with Bethany Lutheran, running from June 1 through Labor Day. Your participation is vital as we embark on this important trial run!



GARAGE SALE

Get ready for the church garage sale coming up this June!

Now is the perfect time to declutter and let go of items you no longer need or use. Your contributions will not only help others find treasures, but they will also support our church. Stay tuned for details on when and where to drop off your donations.



You're invited to participate in the Bible Study at Parsons Insurance, which is also conducted online via Zoom. While an in-person Bible study will still take place, the Zoom format allows for remote participation too. Join Us!

Topic: Weekly Lectionary

Date: Wednesdays, 2:00 PM

URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5453946071>

Meeting ID: 545 394 6071



Church Cleaning

Indoor Spring Cleaning!

The church needs a good cleaning. Many hands makes light work. Let's see how quick we can get this done! Lunch will be provided.

When: April 5, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of all grocery items. We **DO NOT** need the following:

- 🌸 Green Beans,
- 🌸 Mac & Cheese
- 🌸 Soups,
- 🌸 Hamburger Helper
- 🌸 Tomato Sauce,



All other food items are welcome and very much appreciated. We also have a fridge and freezer for cold storage items such as meats and cheeses. Thank you so very much in advance!

TOGETHER WE ARE THE WE CHURCH



Please Scan the QRCode

Please Consider Giving Online

There is a small fee that users have the option to cover to use this portal. We ask that you cover that fee. Thank you!

Confirmation

Grades 6-9 • Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00 • Supper at 5:30

We did it! More specifically - YOU did it! Thanks to your donations, we were able to send the Confirmation students to their retreat in the last weekend of February without having to ask them to pay anything out of their own pockets. Thank you so much for your contributions and understanding of the importance of a retreat like this.

We headed to Inspiration Point on the afternoon of Friday, February 28. It took all 14 of us a little over 5 hours in 2 12-passenger vans. Once there, we got assigned to our cabins and gathered with nearly 200 other middle schoolers in the Sanctuary! It was an amazing opportunity for our kids to worship with so many fellow middle schoolers.

Saturday brought about time for learning! We had 3 different 2-hour breakout sessions to learn about various aspects of our Lutheran faith. During each of these breakout sessions, we moved between 4 different areas. We learned about confession &

absolution, liturgy, Scripture, and many other topics. Amongst our learning, we had free time as well where we had a chance to play basketball, go ice skating, play board games, and broom ball! Then we got to play a large-group picture scavenger hunt. We were given a list of things to find around the camp and were told to take pictures of them. Our girls were in a group to themselves, and our boys doubled in size by teaming up with a group from Dawson, MN.

This was definitely a worthwhile opportunity not just for the kids, but for Mindy and I as well! We got a chance to be preached to and “recharge” (to a degree). It was a lot of fun for Mindy and I to connect with fellow pastors and leaders within the Augustana District as well; creating new relationships and growing old ones!

Thank you again for your continued support of this Confirmation program!

