

Good Friday, March 30

We gather at the life-giving cross to celebrate Christ's passion.

Service at 6:30 p.m.

We gather to celebrate the "triumph of the cross," an ancient name for our Good Friday liturgy. We blend the old and the new, as we hear the bidding Prayer and the Solemn reproaches (*remnants of the liturgy of our ancestors in faith*) and contemporary music led by Joyful Hearts (*a reminder that God is always doing a new thing*).

Easter Vigil, March 31

Worship with Holy Communion

Service at 6:30 p.m.

We gather for the first celebration of Easter. We begin outdoors with a new fire. Then we experience the story of salvation, from Genesis to John, in artistic, dramatic, and musical interpretations. We rejoice in the promises God makes to us in baptism and celebrate Holy Communion as we proclaim, "Christ is Risen, Alleluia!"

Easter Sunday, April 1

Worship with Holy Communion

Services 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

We gather in the presence of the resurrected Jesus.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! We eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ.

8:30 a.m. — Traditional Worship

Music: Sanctuary Choir, Glory Ringers,
Brass and Organ

10 a.m. — Contemporary Worship

Music: Joyful Hearts

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 91
Geneseo, IL
Non-Profit Org.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
114 E. Main Street
Geneseo, IL 61254-1566
309-944-3196



A Lenten Journey

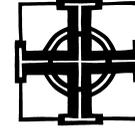


Toward the Easter Vigil

**LENTEN JOURNEY
& HOLY WEEK 2018**
First Lutheran Church
Geneseo, Illinois

Sharing Christ's Love

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AT FIRST



Palm Sunday, March 24 & 25

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

We hear the Passion narrative according to Mark. The K—2nd grade Faithtime children will sing at 10 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt & Activities

An Easter Egg Hunt at 11:15 a.m. for children 5th grade and under in the Fellowship Room.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

**Worship with Holy Communion
and Footwashing**

Services at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

We gather with Jesus to hear his New Commandment to us: Love one another.

This year we will experience footwashing at both services, following Jesus' example.

Sign up at the Welcome Center.

At noon we gather for a service of word and sacrament, with a meal following.

At 5 p.m. the First Communion families will gather for a meal. The Maundy Thursday Worship service begins at 6:30 p.m., where the children will receive their First Communion. The 3rd—6th grade Faithtime children and Sanctuary Choir will sing.

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST

Lent is the 40 day season preceding Easter when we prepare for the joyous celebration of the resurrection. Many people assume that Lent must be a season filled with doom and gloom. But Lent can be a time of celebration. The key is that the celebration is restrained, is expressed in subdued and anticipatory ways, and is geared toward preparing to celebrate with exuberant joy the paschal mystery at Easter. Lent is a season of fasting, and fasting is about a discipline of restraint so that one can celebrate more deeply and extravagantly something wonderful later.

Ash Wednesday begins the call to take up the disciplines of Lent: prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. For Lenten disciplines to serve their purpose, they must be incorporated into our weekly rhythms as a congregation. This year, we will try a few new practices during the season: Wednesday lunches will be a simple meal of soup and bread, and we will not have music at our Saturday evening Informal Worship.

Wednesdays in Lent this year will be a Journey toward the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil is arguably the most important liturgy of the entire church year. In the early church, baptisms were only performed once a year at the Easter Vigil. The liturgy itself usually lasted several hours and included a few dozen scripture readings, in addition to the baptisms and celebration of Holy Communion. We will hear some of these scripture readings and connect them to the story of Christ's resurrection. When Holy Saturday arrives this year, our confirmation and high school youth will lead us in the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, beginning outside with a fire from which we light the Paschal Candle.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Services at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Laura Kamprath

Simple Soup Lunch—12:45 p.m.

Potato Soup/Taco Soup

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Broccoli Cheese/Potato Soup

Potato Bar

Wednesday, February 21

Midweek 1

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Gwen Sefrhans-Murphy,

Port Byron

Isaiah 55:1-11

In this reading from Isaiah, resurrection is like a free feast, baptism like water for the thirsty, God like rain on the earth.

Simple Soup Lunch—12:30 p.m.

Chicken Vegetable Noodle/Vegetable Beef

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Vegetable Beef/Hamburger Soup

Sandwich Bar

Wednesday, February 28

Midweek 2

The Valley of the Dry Bones

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Wayne Melaas-Swanson, Port Byron

Ezekiel 37:1-14

God provides new life for dead bones and new hope for weary souls. The resurrection of Jesus is the source of our new hope.

Simple Soup Lunch—12:30 p.m.

Lasagna Soup/Chicken Noodle

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Creamy Potato/Chili

Salad Bar

Wednesday, March 7

Midweek 3

Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Reed Pedersen, Andover

Daniel 3:1-29

For each of us there will be a time when we are engulfed by fire. Because of the Resurrection of Christ, we can be confident that the Son of God will be with us, no matter what or where the furnace.

Simple Soup Lunch—12:30 p.m.

Cabbage Patch Soup/Chicken Noodle

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Cheesy Potato/Taco Soup

Potato Bar

Wednesday, March 14

Midweek 4 ~ Creation

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Randy Swanson, Cambridge

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of life for us all. Just as the creator God forms the earth out of chaotic waters and shines light onto primeval darkness, so the resurrection of Christ pulls us from death through baptism into fruitful life with all the good earth and enlightens our life in Christ.

Simple Soup Lunch—12:30 p.m.

Chicken & Rice/Chili

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Chicken Veggie/Cheddar Potato

Sandwich Bar

Wednesday, March 21

Midweek 5 ~ Flood

Half-hour service at Noon & 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Mike Lawyer, Orion

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

In the story of the flood, God re-creates the world by sending forty days of rain to destroy all that is evil. In the resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new, and in our baptism, we are cleansed and brought to new life.

Simple Soup Lunch—12:30 p.m.

Vegetable Beef/Turkey Noodle

Faithtime Dinner—5:00-6:15 p.m.

Vegetable Beef/Turkey Noodle

Salad Bar