

+Christian Symbol+

Nails

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.

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Chapel News

Return Service Requested

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
337 Farview Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Chapel News

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Our Staff and Council

Pastor	Rev. Hayley Bang
Secretary	Debbie Geerlof
Sexton	Bob Sakala
Director of Music Ministries	Michael Wittenburg
President	Chris Nilsen
Vice President	Chuck Young
Secretary	Pam Sakala
Treasurer	Paul Berinato
Recording Financial Secty	Pat Berinato
Financial Secty	Marge Tomaselli
Worship Team	Marge Tomaselli
Shepherd Team	Carrie Ralston
Financial Resource Team	Chuck Young
Servant Team	Anne Carman
Property Team	Chris Nilsen
Christian Education Team	Pam Sakala
Stewardship Team	Barbara Frielink
Newspaper Liason	Linda Polise



Virtual Church Through April

Due to the continuing spread of the Coronavirus in our area; and as a result of the continuing and mandated shutdowns, curfews, and self-quarantines imposed by local and state governments, the Council and Pastor Hayley have determined that we will need to continue the closure of the church buildings and refrain from holding all meetings, gatherings, and services through April. The weekly

Lectionary Bible Study and Worship services will be virtual...available on YouTube and Zoom. More information to come.

If you are currently not included in the weekly emails and wish to be included, please send your email address to christinparamus@hotmail.com and we will add you to our email list.



To Infinity and Beyond!

Could it be? Yes it could. Something's coming. Something good.

Maybe this summer?

While this may be premature, we hope and pray that the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted come August and we will be allowed to hold our annual summer program as usual. We all will surely need a good celebration by that time! We don't have the dates yet, but we do have a plan!

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

Go beyond with kindness! Go beyond with boldness! Go beyond with faith! Go beyond in all you do in our Lord's name! We'll focus on all these traits, bringing you a program each night that emphasizes all these things!

So stay tuned! When we have things finalized we'll let you know!

Your VBS team

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Letter from Pastor Hayley

Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:20-24, NRSV)

In the midst of this pandemic revolving around the COVID-19 virus, people are trying to find a way to cope with the current chaotic situation. At first, before all the executive orders were given, some people had already decided to come to church, but take precautions. Some chose to stay home and do a personal service at home or online. Some even argued that even though there was an executive order to stay home, "If you are really faithful people of God you should be in a church no matter what. You lack faith! God is our strength, and you are not trusting your God with your whole heart if you do not come to church!"

Those who choose to stay home and worship at home say, "That's stupid! Nothing is more important than your life. It is better to stay at home and preserve yourself from exposure to the virus! We are staying home not just to protect ourselves but we are helping to protect others, as we do not know who the carriers are."

As people of God, let us ask and reflect on this question honestly. Can we say that those people who come to church on Sunday, despite the fact that the fear of this pandemic virus is real, are more faithful than the people who decide to stay home to worship? The answer of course is no. The most crucial matter that we should focus on here at this time is about worshiping God with your whole heart, like the above quote from the gospel of John. So the question and the focus is not about where you are at that moment on Sunday morning at worship

time, but about worshiping God in spirit and truth.

When Jesus was there at the well to talk to the Samaritan woman, his focus was not about how many husbands she had or what kind of relationships she had, but his focus was on the relationship of God with us. We tend to complain and judge others — that is in our human nature. People complain to God about our current situation with this virus. They blame God when they get sick, or they say God has left us, or this is the end of time, or they question why God let this happen at all.

However, clearly the Bible is telling us that it does not matter whether you are in the middle of your vacation or in a hospital bed or at home isolating yourself, as long as you are centered in God in Christ. Instead of judging others about where they are on Sunday morning, as followers of Christ we should be reflecting upon how we are spiritual during that time. That is the right focus for us.

Instead of complaining to God or testing God, trust in God that he is with us wherever we go. God looks into our heart and examines what is in our center, and what is in our heart rather than where we physically are at this time. So, people of God, please ask this question instead. "Are we worshiping God in spirit and truth?" Trust God, who will fill us up with the everlasting living water wherever we worship God in spirit and truth. And let us have hope in our God who will give wisdom to those who work on eradicating this virus with a vaccine for all. So we must pray, and remind ourselves of our baptism where we were reborn through the water and spirit in God. In a time like this, more than ever, we are cleansing our body and mind because we are the people of God who were cleansed by water and spirit in our baptism, who can pray for healing and at the same time be there for those people who need his healing. We are the church, not confined by buildings, but the gathering of Spirits in Christ...wherever we are.

In Christ,
Pastor Hayley

God is Love

-1 John 4:16

Please Pray for These Loved Ones

Donna Archer, Karen Bartholomew, Kathleen Bhargava, Maggie Brower, Randi Castelonia, Young Hee Choi, Lillian Cooper, Ron DePue, Rich Dugan, Nora Edwards, the Fernandez Family, Al Frielink, Krista Fuchs, Mark Hallwell, Diane Hesse, Jae Hee Kim, Nadine Kohn, Soon Hoi Koo, Dennis and Jennifer Kruk, Anna and Walter Kruk, Mary Kurzum, Bill Kyritz, Rich Lindeberg, Renee Lomelino, Kaethe Lorch, Wilma Lundgren, Marie Lupinski, Dennis Marinkovich, Dorothy Mulroe, Emma and Richard Murphy, Amy Nywening, Lionel Ortega, Shepard Palance, Karen Richardson, Doris Robinson, Cathy and Roger Schramm, Evelyn Schramm, Yorg Schultheis, Michael Siekmann, Nancy Sweet, Marge Tomaselli, Jaime Battaglia van Dam, Lenny van Dam, Jennifer Viehmeyer, June Ward, Irma Weishaupt, Louis Wernick, Robert Wiederschall, Elenor Witte, Paul Witte and Claire Zimmerman

And those serving in the military...

Ryan Coiley, Bryant Rodriguez Cyriax, Greg Flintall, Daniel Jaichner, Devin Vega and Rachel Zarnke

And those who can't always be with us...

Al Frielink, Grete Potts and Irma Weishaupt

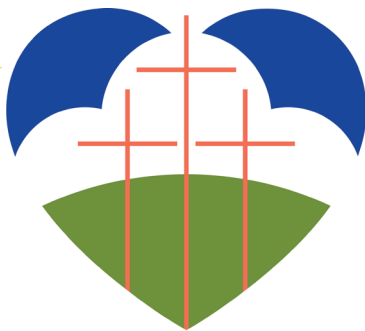
If you would like someone to be added to or removed from the prayer lists, please contact the Church Office at 201-262-0138.

A Reason to Laugh

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term “risus paschalis,” or “the Easter laugh,” saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the

day after Easter to mock Satan’s defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that “we are fools for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.



Easter Around the World

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ’s ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with

non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

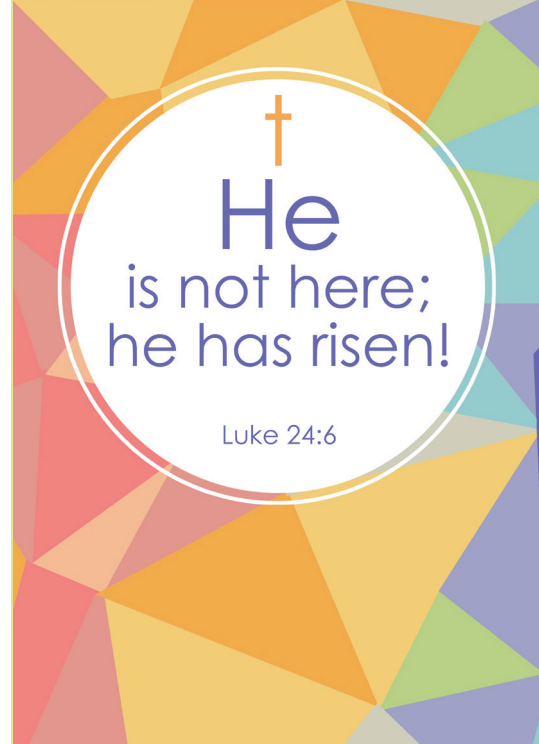
In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus’ Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town’s main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

Four Lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus’ suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn’t always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn’t the last word.

“The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter,” Martin writes. “The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It’s the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father’s will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life.”



Bible Quizzes



Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)






As Jacob used a rock for a pillow — later to become a pillar honoring God — which of the following did he experience in a dream?

- A. Angels going up and down on a ladder between earth and heaven.
- B. The Lord promising that Jacob’s family would be a blessing to all nations.
- C. God’s assurance: “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.”
- D. All of the above.

Answer: D (See Genesis 28:10-19.)

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
 5 Palm Sunday Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am	6 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	7	8	 9 Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Virtual) 8:00pm	 10 Good Friday Worship Service (Virtual) 8:00pm	11
 12 Easter Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am	13 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am Council Meeting (Virtual) 12:00pm	20 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	21	 22 Administrative Professionals Day	23	24	25
26 Worship Service (Virtual) 10:30am	27 Lectionary Bible Study (Virtual) 11:00am	28	29	30		