



# *News from the Pews*

## VOLUME 2      ISSUE 3

March 2023



### *Vicar's Voice*

We are bringing our Lenten Pilgrimage to a close in the next few weeks – we began on Ash Wednesday and will conclude at the Cross on Good Friday – only to celebrate again the triumph and joy of Easter morning on April 9<sup>th</sup>. I am going to use this space to encourage you to travel through the entire Holy Week schedule of services and not just jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Each stop along the way brings deeper meaning to your Easter morning celebration. Let us begin.... Holy Week begins with commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, climaxing with the Last Supper and Passion of Jesus on Good Friday, ending with his sabbath rest in the grave on Holy Saturday. The resurrection of Jesus on eighth day, is celebrated as Easter, and marks the beginning of a new week, Easter week and the season of Eastertide.

#### **Palm Sunday**

Palm Sunday commemorates the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem described in all four canonical gospels. As described in the accounts, Jesus's entry into Jerusalem was noted by the crowds present who shouted praises and waved palm branches.

#### **Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday) commemorates the Last Supper, where Christ lays out the model for the Eucharist or Holy Communion. During the meal, Jesus predicted the events that would immediately follow, including his betrayal, the Denial of Peter, and his death and resurrection. In Methodist and Lutheran churches, the altar has black paraments or the altar cloths are removed altogether. At the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday liturgy in Lutheran Churches, the "lectern and pulpit are [also] left bare until Easter to symbolize the humiliation and barrenness of the cross."

#### **Good Friday**

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his subsequent death. Commemorations of often solemn and mournful, many denominations use Good Friday to perform the Stations of the Cross, or other commemorations of the Passion, either as a self-guided time of reflection and veneration or as a procession of statues or images of the stations.

## **Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil**

Holy Saturday is the day between the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection. As the Sabbath day, the Gospel accounts all note that Jesus was hurriedly buried in a cave tomb after his crucifixion, with the intent to finish proper embalming and burial ceremonies on Sunday, after the Sabbath had ended, as the Sabbath day prohibitions would have prevented observant Jews from completing a proper burial. While daytime liturgies or commemorations of the day are rare in the Western tradition, after sundown on Holy Saturday is the traditional time for Easter Vigil.

## **Easter**

Easter Day, which immediately follows Holy Week and begins with the Easter Vigil, is the great feast day and apogee of the Christian liturgical year: on this day the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated. It is the first day of the new season of the Great Fifty Days, or Eastertide, which runs from Easter Day to Pentecost Sunday. The Resurrection of Christ on Easter Day is the main reason why Christians keep every Sunday as the primary day of religious observance.

Blessings as you continue your Lenten pilgrimage and see you soon on our Holy Week progressions and faith journey together. *Vicar Sena.*

## **Holy Week Church Service Dates**

- 4/2 - Palm Sunday Dual Worship Service @ CGS, 10am
- 4/6 - Maundy Thursday @ Holy Cross, 6:30pm
- 4/7 - Good Friday Worship Service @ CGS, 6:30pm
- 4/8 - Saturday Vigil, Open Sanctuary @ CGS, Time TBA
- 4/9 - **Easter Dual Worship Service @ Holy Cross, 10am**



Easter Worship Service will be hosted at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Let's all celebrate Spring and Resurrection on Easter morning by wearing spring hats, dresses, shirt, ties!

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church Address:  
1998 Lansing Ave NE Salem, OR 97301**

## Leader of the Month

### **Featured Leader: Council Vice President Council – Heidi Dupuis**

I was born and raised in Grants Pass, Oregon. My dad was a veterinarian and we lived on a 40 acre “hobby” farm – horses, cows, and hay. I started my college experience at the University of Puget Sound in Art History and German. I graduated from Oregon State University in Dietetics and Food Systems Management. In between there was a year at the University Salzburg Austria. I did a dietetic internship in Richmond, Virginia. My career in school nutrition programs began in the Eugene School District 4J. Kay Harris and I crossed paths here. I met Michael at United Lutheran Church in Eugene. He was visiting and I helped him through our maze of hymnals by passing books opened to be right page. We worked together with high school youth group. We married in 1990. Jacques was born in 1993. We moved to Salem in 2000 after I started working for the Department of Education. I retired from public service in July 2021. Today, we divide our time between O’Brien, OR Salem and Coolin, ID.

### **Fun Facts about Heidi!**

**How long have you been in the CGSL fellowship community?** 20 + years

**What brings you joy?** Being in nature, observing it in all its fantastic variety and interconnected purpose.

**What is your favorite sweet treat?** Fruit pies, ice cream, Seven Sisters Danish pastry

**What was your first job?** Driving the tractor for manual hay bale retrieval in the field

**What was your “dream job” as a child?** An illustrator

**What is your main hobby?** Fiber arts –  
Spinning, knitting, weaving

**If you were stranded on a desert island, and you could have only three things with you, what would they be?** Water, Kind bars, and my Bible ( I think all books are striving to be the Bible) I don’t tire from reading it; it is fresh every time.

**You can switch bodies with one person for a whole year. Whose shoes do you live in?** Clara Barton, who started the American Red Cross at the age of 60



### Renew Luncheon

**Tuesday, May 2 | 11:45 a.m. | Salem Convention Center**

At RENEW, hear how lives at Union Gospel Mission of Salem's Simonka Place for Women & Children are being changed and reclaimed. Join the movement to help hurting women break free from homelessness, restore their dignity, and remind them of their inherent worth. All funds raised at this luncheon will benefit Simonka Place, yet this event is free to attend.

To register today [click here!](#)

Or go to <https://ugmsalem.org/events/renew-2023> for more information.

### Vicar Sena Dates Away

Vicar Sena will be away on vacation from March 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

During this time Pastoral care needs will be allocated to other local Pastor's.



### March Birthdays

Happy Birthday!	
Karl Hester, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Heidi Dupuis, 16 <sup>th</sup>
Jeremy Anderson, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Caroline Fennell, 18 <sup>th</sup>
Regina Stauffer, 4 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie McElfresh, 19 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Priddy, 6 <sup>th</sup>	Stephanie Palmblad, 19 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Roth, 6 <sup>th</sup>	Evan Elias, 20 <sup>th</sup>
AJ De La Rosa 9 <sup>th</sup>	Kristin Banning, 26 <sup>th</sup>
Sara Palmquist, 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Bock, 27 <sup>th</sup>
Meagan Shepherd 14 <sup>th</sup>	Inez Ambrosek, 28 <sup>th</sup>
Nate Pramuk, 15 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Boswell, 29 <sup>th</sup>

## April - Church Calendar

- 4/2 - Palm Sunday Dual Worship Service @ CGS, 10am
- 4/6 - Maundy Thursday @ Holy Cross, 6:30pm
- 4/7 - Good Friday Worship Service @ CGS, 6:30pm
- 4/8 - Saturday Vigil, Open Sanctuary @ CGS, Time TBA
- 4/9 - **Easter Dual Worship Service @ Holy Cross, 10am**
- 4/16 – Worship Service @ CGS, 10am
- 4/23 – Worship Service @ CGS, 10am
- 4/30 – Worship Service @ CGS, 10am

## Synod News

### A letter from Bishop Laurie Larson

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Twenty years ago I knew almost nothing of current Israel and Palestine. Geography? Maybe. Modern history? Barely. I could not have told you that Christian Palestinians are a significant, important minority on the West Bank. I certainly couldn't have predicted that our daughter, Sophie, now twenty-four years old, would spend the 2022-23 school year living with a Christian Palestinian family and working with the gifted and courageous Lutheran theologian [Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb](#), as a volunteer working through the ELCA's program [Young Adults in Global Mission](#).

In January, Drew and I took a [trip to Palestine](#) to visit Sophie, meet her host family, see, touch and taste amazing things, and celebrate the ordination of the first Palestinian woman by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Rev. Sally Azar. We also had rich conversations and inspiring adventures touring Christian holy sites throughout the region together. I've been lucky enough to have visited the Holy Land more than once. I always pinch myself when I find myself once again walking through the narrow stone streets of Jerusalem's old city, exactly where Jesus, Peter, Martha and Mary would've walked. The busy market, children running underfoot, elders hunched over keeping a pace, historic church after historic church built on top of what are supposedly exact holy spots, and the scents of candles, honey, sesame snacks, olives, falafel, spices, candles, incense, and the very real aroma of human bodies coming together everywhere astounds and delights me.



Breaking my wrist while riding a bike near Bethlehem was NOT on my original itinerary. Sophie's host family, especially her parents Awad and Suzan, cared for me with urgency, graciousness, and such kindness. But when it became apparent that I would need more complete care than the local clinic could provide, their limited capacity to help us—as Palestinians living under occupation—became painfully clear. They had a car, and time, and the desire to help. What they did not have was permission from the state of Israel to drive past the tall concrete wall that circumscribes their life.

What was twenty years ago a 30-minute drive into Jerusalem, now means special permits—only sometimes given—and the mandatory crossing of a dehumanizing checkpoint, which can translate anywhere from an additional 30-minutes to three or more hours, depending on the crowds, the time of day and the mood of the young, gun-carrying Israeli Defense Forces soldiers. So the day of the unscheduled wrist-break, my family and I were one long bus ride, one checkpoint at which point Sophie was asked to step off the bus, one hike through the old city of Jerusalem and a hurried cab ride away from getting care for my painfully dislocated wrist. When we finally arrived at the Jerusalem hospital, we realized the journey had taken us four hours. It'll be far longer than four hours that I remember the tiny taste of life under government occupation that we received that day. My hand has been well taken care of and is healing. My heart still aches, even more, for the state aggression under which our Palestinian siblings of all faiths must live, with limits on water, land, the right to movement, and so much more.

If you ever get to chat with a Palestinian pastor, or bishop, they will urge you to **“come and see!”** I hope you might consider joining the Oregon Synod trip to visit the area this September. If you wish to learn more about the situation in Palestine, I recommend the book *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes*, by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—a beautiful biblical, theological and accessible exposition of life there.

What never ceases to amaze me is how saturated with hope and gratitude their faith lives seem. Surrounded by the land, the sights, and the living stones of the Holy Land. Our Lutheran siblings living in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Jordan have so much to teach us as we seek to walk Christ's way of courageous love.

Walking with you,  
Bishop Laurie

**CGS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNzbxJBa\\_Q26xWDYx0fJ5Vg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNzbxJBa_Q26xWDYx0fJ5Vg)

Sunday Worship: 10:00-11:30; view YouTube sermons live or past sermons