
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

April 2025

The Battle of the Anthems

What if world conflicts were fought, not with weapons of war but with the majesty of music ...

If disputes were settled, not on battlefields but in symphony halls and concert stages?

What if national pride and glory could play itself out, not in death and destruction but through chords and choruses?

Let your imaginations linger no longer! Let us engage in a battle of the bands, so to speak, by staging a competition between national anthems. Which nation has the strongest lyrics and the most moving melody? Which nation will conquer the world through music? With an all too brief sampling of anthems around the globe, let's see which national hymns most stir the spirit and rouse the soul to patriotic duty and devotion.

Many national anthems are militaristic, citing the glory of waging and winning wars. ("Oh, say can you see ... through the rocket's red glare, that our flag was still there.") But other anthems value a different kind of national pride. Norway has a peace-loving anthem with a nod to neighboring countries. Tanzania proclaims that its weapons are wisdom, unity, and peace. They will shield and protect their people. Uruguay wields a weapon of liberty to "make the tyrants tremble". South Africa's anthem arises out of apartheid and asks the Lord's blessing after a time of bitter division.


Some anthems still bear the scars of war and offer a firm rebuttal to war's destruction. Germany's anthem was all but ruined by Adolf Hitler. The Nazi regime was so firmly linked to the first verse that it is now restricted in favor of the third verse's appeal to freedom as the foundation for the future. France also appeals to freedom, coming out of the French Revolution. Warmonger Napoleon banned it as a threat to his control, but it was reinstated in 1879.

Under Russian control and censorship, Jean Sibelius composed *Finlandia* in defiance of Russia's conquest. His music inspired Finland's independence in 1917, and many still propose Finlandia's Hymn ("Be Still My Soul" in Lutheran hymnals) as the National Anthem. Instead, Finland's current anthem has eleven verses! (In case you're wondering, the shortest national anthem belongs to Spain—40 wordless seconds letting the music itself speak for Spain's glory.)

The United Kingdom hails the Monarchy while Russia praises Communism ... but many anthems tout the majestic beauty of their country—like the Bahamas ... or Lichtenstein: "Up above the Rhein ... High in the Alps." Zambia soars with nature's beauty comparing its freedom with the noble eagle in flight, blessed by God. Luxemborg emphasizes the deep connection between human values and nature's beauty: "Where the vines along the Mosel fragrantly blossom, Where heaven itself makes wine for us."

One cannot help but be moved by the anthem of Bosnia-Herzegovina. After bitter wars, its anthem sounds the note of reconciliation by celebrating unity amidst diversity, bringing together different ethnic and cultural groups. Adapted in 1999, this anthem strives to heal old acrimony, as the rivers, mountains, and blue skies remember the ancestors' sacrifices, leading to a new future together.

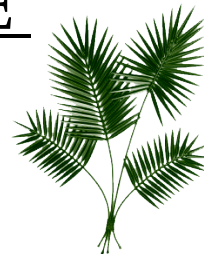
So which anthem is the best? Or is a better question, 'how can any national anthem convey the heart and soul of a people and capture a higher purpose of service, sacrifice, and unity?' Would our own anthem in these United States better serve our history and heritage, our hopes and dreams by turning from the images of war? (The Star Spangled Banner has a third verse which decries slaves working with the British Army for their freedom. The anthem's author was pro-slavery and anti-black.) Many have espoused "Oh, Beautiful for Spacious Skies ... God shed God's Grace on Thee" as an alternative. Were I given the choice for a National Anthem, I would turn to Emma Lazarus. Her poem summarizes what our country has been and must always be: "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp! Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free." Now, if only Sibelius could set that to music!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY—APRIL 13, 10:00AM

We'll sing "Hosannas!" to the King whose throne is a cross as we process with palms into the Great and Holy Week. From this triumphant entry, however, our service will turn to the dramatic enactment of our Lord's Passion as we journey with Christ Jesus to a cross on Golgotha.



MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 17, 7:00PM

Our Maundy Thursday worship will remember the night our Lord was betrayed and turned over to Roman soldiers. But it will also remember the night He took Bread and Wine and gave us the gift of everlasting life.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE —APRIL 18, 7:00PM

In a service of darkness and mediation, we will remember and share our Lord's suffering and death in Good Friday worship. The nails that spelled Christ's agonizing death, spell our salvation as we nail our sins to that same cross to live his new life. Observing the ancient order of Tenebrae, we will stand with the centurion at the foot of the cross and declare, "Truly, this was the Son of God."



Easter Sunrise—April 20, 7:00am

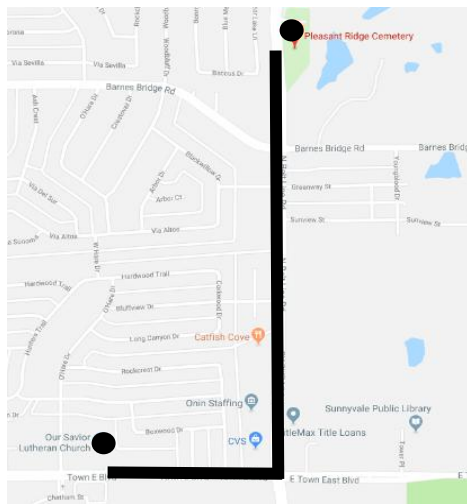
PLEASANT RIDGE CEMETERY

Like surprised women carrying embalming spices, we will gather together 'at early dawn' for our Easter Sunrise at a cemetery. In

a place of death, they found life! Imagine their surprise! Imagine our surprise, as well, for we will celebrate Christ's triumph among tombstones, and find joy in the place of mourning.



(The cemetery is located on the east side of Beltline between Barnes Bridge and Northwest Drive.)



Ham & Egg Casserole

- 4 c. French bread, cubed
- 3 c. ham, diced
- ½ lb. grated American cheese
- 6 eggs
- 4 tsp. flour
- 1 ½ tsp. dry mustard
- Dash of Tabasco sauce
- 4 c. milk
- 4 tbsp. melted butter
- Salt to taste



Layer bread, ham, and cheese in a 9" x 13" greased baking pan. Pour over the remaining ingredients which have been beaten together in order given. Refrigerate in covered pan. Bake 1 hour at 300 degrees.

Easter Breakfast Potluck

Can you imagine what Easter morning might have looked like if Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Salome, and the whole gang had packed breakfast? They could have had a celebration picnic right on the spot, invited the disciples, and had entertainment with the angels singing a heavenly tune or two! (That would have gotten the cowardly disciples out from hiding behind closed doors, because men will go anywhere for food!) Fast forward to April 20th in Mesquite and help us make Easter Breakfast happen. Sign up to bring your favorite breakfast casserole, sweet breads, or fruit. Need ideas? Try out one of these → → recipes for starters... or use a favorite of your own.

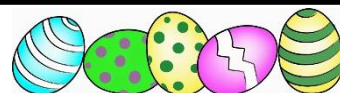
Charleston Breakfast Casserole

- 12 slices bacon
- ¼ c. butter, melted
- 3 c. croutons
- 2 c. grated cheddar cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1 ¾ c. milk
- 1 bell pepper (any color), diced
- 1 tbsp. prepared mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Place bacon in large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside. Place croutons in bottom of 9" x 13" greased baking dish and drizzle with melted butter. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Whisk egg yolks, then add milk, peppers, mustard, salt, and pepper. Beat until well combined. Pour over croutons and cheese, and sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Bake 40 minutes at 325 degrees.



Eggspensive Eggs



There is good news for our Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast this year! The Easter eggs for our kids have already been promised and will be supplied for all our Easter egg hunters on Easter morning. That means that you can save money on candy eggs to help minimize the cost of eggs and other goodies for our potluck Easter breakfast on April 20th at 8:30am. Easter breakfast always promises some of the best casseroles, desserts, and other eggcellent, eggstravagant goodies which give us eggsactly what we need for an eggciting Easter celebration.

Table Talk: Learning from History



When Martin Luther gathered with his colleagues and students, they would regularly discuss the events of the world in the light of the Gospel. It was unstructured, open-ended, and light-hearted. We're using that model for a Monday night gathering and we're borrowing Luther's very own title: Table Talk. If you would like to be a part of a Table Talk group that will meet on Monday, April 7th and, perhaps, every Monday thereafter, join us at 6:30pm for discussion and documentaries that help us learn from history. The documentaries will explore the dynamics that led countries down the road to fascism. We'll also explore the courage that gave the church a voice to speak out against evil powers. We are open to your suggestions and ideas. Let's talk! (972-226-0510)

LUTHERAN 101

April 24th at 7pm

How does a 500 year old Reformation speak to 21st century Lutherans? Lutheran 101 connects the unique accents of Lutheran Christianity to faith in Christ today. This might be a perfect time for you to learn about Lutherans or to reconnect with your confirmation studies. But whether you're an old Lutheran, a new Lutheran, or



just thinking about being a Lutheran, this might be the perfect time to offer a toast to good 'ole Marty Luther and bring the Reformation era up to date. Tentative start up date will be Thursday, April 24th at 7pm, but time can be revised if there are schedule conflicts. Sign up or give a call for more information.

Thriving With Thrivent Dollars

If any congregation member has insurance or financial policies with Thrivent (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans), we have the possibility to help fund current or new ministries. This has been overlooked with all of the transitions and mergers, but it would be foolish to neglect this opportunity. Please call the office (972-226-0510) or let Pastor know if you are a Thrivent member so we can utilize this vehicle to support and sustain effective ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Easter Lilies

Those wishing to help decorate our sanctuary for Easter by purchasing an Easter Lily are encouraged to do so by completing the form below and placing it in the offering plate or church office by Sunday, April 13th. *The cost of plants is \$12.00 per plant.* You may take your plant(s) home after the Easter services.



Name _____

Number of Lilies _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Given in Memory of _____

Honor of _____

Celebration of _____

Birthdays

3	Pam Hillegas
	Char Kratus
4	Tino Williams
5	Ronette Lenhart
9	Lois Schelter
10	Ann Gilbert
	Joyce Lacy
12	Mila Keys
	Yolanda Rice
16	Michael Furr
17	Joyce Barabas
	Donna Grafing
18	Herb Romage
19	Christopher Drews
21	Nicole Kurt
	JJ Zavaro
24	Kevin Finamore
25	Christa Schelter
28	Michael Kendrick
30	Betty Mastin

April



Wedding Anniversaries

Date		Years
6	Paul Cross & Karen Staton	7
6	Michael & Cynthia Lubben	34
14	Charles & Connie Skyles	52



Baptism Birthdays

3	Janet Ndomahina
	Prince Ndomahina
4	Collette Lippincott
9	Christopher Mayfield
10	Gerald Hare
	Joyce Lacy
16	David Williams
17	Anastasia Aguirre
18	Floyd Neeriemer
21	Mila Keys
	Diana Perez
22	Rachel Schelter
23	Jeff Combs
24	Brian Dannen
	Jordan Starr
25	Jessica Brown
26	Nadia Keys
27	Lois Schelter
30	Andrew Taneja
	Matthew Taneja

Worship Leaders for April:

Worship Assistant: Chip Cannon Reader: Shirleen Reese
Ushers: Thane Katz Altar Guild: Lindsey Bennett



April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 10:00am Worship Service 4:30pm Worship Service	7:00pm Boy Scouts	1 9:30am Mother's Day Out	2 10:30am Sages for All Ages 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper—Potatoes 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service—"About Face"	3 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:00am Deanery Meeting 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4	
5	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Table Talk	8 9:30am Mother's Day Out	9 10:30am Sages for All Ages 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper—Pancakes 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service—"Worm Ball"	10 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11	
13 Palm/Passion Sunday 11:30am Council Meeting	14 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 9:30am Mother's Day Out	16 10:30am Sages for All Ages	17 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae	19
20 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service 8:30 Easter Potluck Breakfast 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt	21 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 9:30am Mother's Day Out	23 10:30am Sages for All Ages	24 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Lutheran 101	25 Synod Assembly	26 Synod Assembly
27	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 9:30am Mother's Day Out	30 10:30am Sages for All Ages			