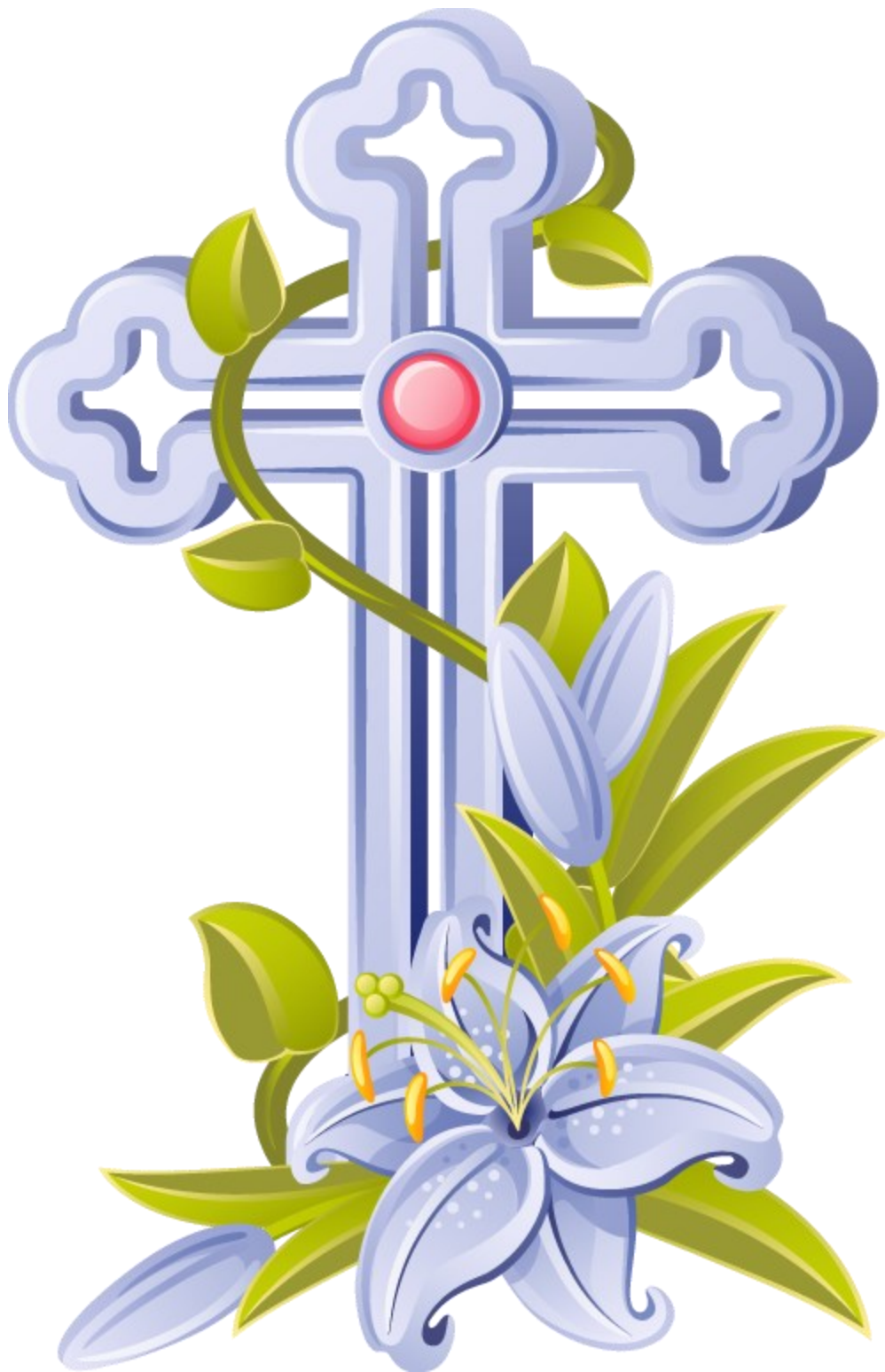


The Adventurer

April 2026



STAFF

Pastors

Jason Peterson
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Organist/Director of Music

R.J. Thomas

Financial Secretaries

Steve & Debbie Merzlak

Church Council President

Joan Kruscavage

Vice President

Kath Gamlen

Secretary

Phil Hanes

Treasurer

Debbie Merzlak

At Large Members

Gina Hammock
Jamie Sadenwasser

Ministry Chairpersons

Christian Education

Heather Herrmann

Evangelism

Robert Gentry

Fellowship

Joan Kruscavage

Property

Mike Gamlen

Service

Gina Hammock

Stewardship

Worship

Pastors

Youth

Carolyn Weeks



Holy Week

Message from the Bishop

Beloved servants of Christ: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who will lead, and all who will walk this holy way,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the most sacred days of our life together.

You are carrying a profound trust this week. With your voices, your hands, your prayers, your preparation, and your presence, you will help God's people walk the story that shapes us: the story of love poured out, of truth spoken in the face of power, of suffering embraced, and of life that will not be extinguished.

Holy Week begins not quietly, but with a parade, a procession that is both praise and protest. Palms are lifted, voices cry out "Hosanna," and yet beneath the joy is a deeper truth: this is a march toward the cross. It is a witness against the powers of this world that trade in violence, exclusion, and fear. It is the way of Jesus, who refuses to turn away from the suffering of the world and instead walks straight into it with love.

And so you will lead God's people:
into the tension of the upper room,
into the loneliness of the garden,
into the injustice of the trial,
into the silence of the tomb.

You will hold vigil when others turn away.

You will give voice to lament in a world that often rushes past grief.

You will stand at the cross and dare to proclaim that even here, especially here: God is at work.

This is holy labor.

Continued on Next Page...



And yet, you do not carry this alone.

The One who calls you is already ahead of you, in the breaking of bread, in the washing of feet, in the cry of abandonment, and in the stillness of the grave. Christ meets you in every hymn you lead, every word you proclaim, every silence you keep.

To all who will walk this Holy Week: come honestly. Bring your doubts, your weariness, your hope, your longing. This is not a performance; it is a pilgrimage. Together, we walk the long road through death, not to dwell there, but because we trust what God has promised.

For we know how this story unfolds.

Even as we kneel at the cross,
even as we keep watch in the darkness,
we hold fast to the truth that death is not the final word.

God's final word is life.

God's final word is resurrection.

God's final word is love that cannot be defeated.

May you be strengthened for this calling. May your spirits be renewed even as you pour yourselves out. And may you, along with all the faithful, be surprised again by the power of Easter morning.

Christ walks this road with you, and Christ will meet you in the dawn.

In prayer and hope,
and in the promise of resurrection,

+The Rev. Dr. Kevin L. Strickland, Bishop

April
Worship
Schedule

Thursday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday

Worship & Holy Communion 7pm

Friday, April 3rd

Good Friday

Tenebrae Worship Service 7pm

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Sunday

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Following Worship, Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12th

Second Sunday of Easter

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Sunday School 10:45am

Sunday, April 19th

Third Sunday of Easter

Worship 9:30am

Sunday School 10:45am

Sunday, April 26th

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Earth Day Celebration

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Sunday School 10:45am



Join us on April 5, 2026

Easter Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Easter Potluck Brunch following worship

and then...

Hop outside for the
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
for all children!

Don't forget your Easter baskets!

EASTER
JOY
He Is Risen!
Alleluia!
NEW LIFE
Rejoice
Amen.

get more quotes at THEDAILYQUOTES.COM



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Fresh Flowers for the Easter Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5th. Don't forget to bring a cut flower from your garden or yard or from the store to decorate the Lenten Cross and transform it into a Resurrection Cross.



We need filled Easter Eggs for the Children's
Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th following worship.

If you would take the empty eggs from the narthex and fill them or bring in already filled eggs to the church by Easter Sunday, we would be so grateful!

Celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday and Earth Day



Sunday, April 26, 2026

Grounded in the presence of our Creator, Creative, and Creating God (Greeting), this service moves from gratitude for water (Thanksgiving for Baptism) toward repentance and renewed desire to contribute to creation's well-being (Offertory Prayer), sending us out (Blessing and Dismissal) with renewed relationships and our place in the fold assured.

Welcome
New Members!

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Potluck Welcome Luncheon to follow Worship



Christians
confronting emptiness
choosing compassion
creating community

Collection for April is
Boxes of Cereal





AUGUSTA SATURDAY MARKET MINISTRY

Bi-weekly on Saturdays
8 am to 2 pm
Kick-Off 18 April

Downtown at 8th and Reynolds St

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Provide items we can hand out/sell
(bread, plants, cookies, bookmarks,
seeds, bracelets, etc)

Be there and share your story

Help with setup and tear down

Come say hi!



THE GOAL

Clearly communicating the message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Building trust, listening to others' stories, and practicing hospitality

Aiming to persuade while respecting the individual and avoiding unnecessary pressure.

Trusting that only God can ultimately convert people's hearts.



Matthew 28:19-20

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Scheduled Date:
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

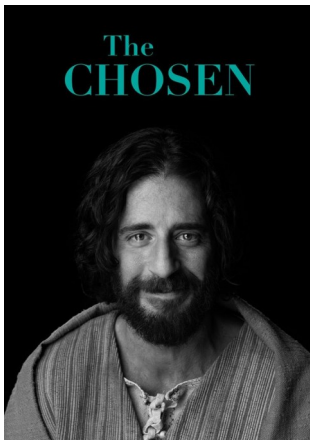


It's never too early to start getting those
ANNUAL REPORTS ready.

Please have your reports ready by:

April 27, 2026

So that we can get them to the congregation before
the May 5th meeting. Thank you in advance!



Adult Bible Study - "The Chosen"

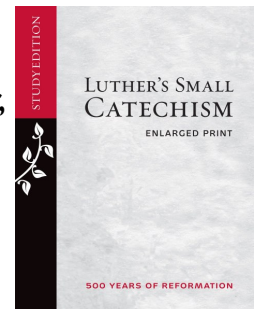
The Adult Bible Study continues with Season Three, Episode 7th on
Wednesday, April 22nd, 10:30-11:30am. April 29th is the concluding
Bible Study of season three.

The episode for the class will be shown at the church at 9:30am with
the class to follow at 10:30am

We hope you will join us for this holy time in the Word.

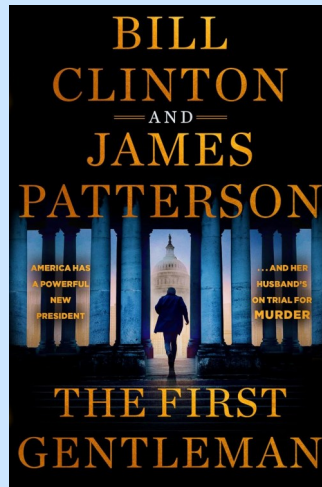
Adult Sunday School

There is no Adult Sunday school the first three weeks of April due to Easter,
New Members and Pastors being away. The Adult Sunday School will finish
their study of the Lord's Prayer, **Sunday, April 26th** and will begin their
study of the Creeds, Sunday, May 10th.



ADVENT BOOK CLUB 2026

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 11am unless otherwise noted.



Join us on Monday, April 27th at 11am in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to discuss the book, “The First Gentlemen” by Bill Clinton & James Patterson. The discussion leader for the morning is Janice Richardson. All are welcome!

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Advent’s Little Free Pantry is being used daily. Your gifts and donations allow us at Advent to reach those in need in the community. Thank you!

For April, the days will be getting warmer and we would like to begin to stock up water for the pantry. If you are able to bring water of any kind to help stock the pantry, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be a case of water or individual bottles.

Any donation will be of great help.



The pantry can still could use regular items as well such as snack items, soups, and microwavable macaroni and cheese .

Thank you to everyone who has helped to stock and fill the Little Free Pantry.

MUSIC News

A graphic featuring a purple treble clef on a blue musical staff. Five colorful notes (red, green, orange, blue, and yellow) are placed on the staff, with wavy lines trailing off to the right.

The choirs will take a much needed break after Easter.

Beginning in April, after Masters week, both choirs will move back to their regular Wednesday night practice schedule. The first practice for both choirs post Easter will be April 15:
Bells at 6pm; Choir at 7pm.

Thank you to the Bells & Choir and to R.J. Thomas for all your hard work this year and especially for making this such a Holy...Holy Week!



Property Ministry

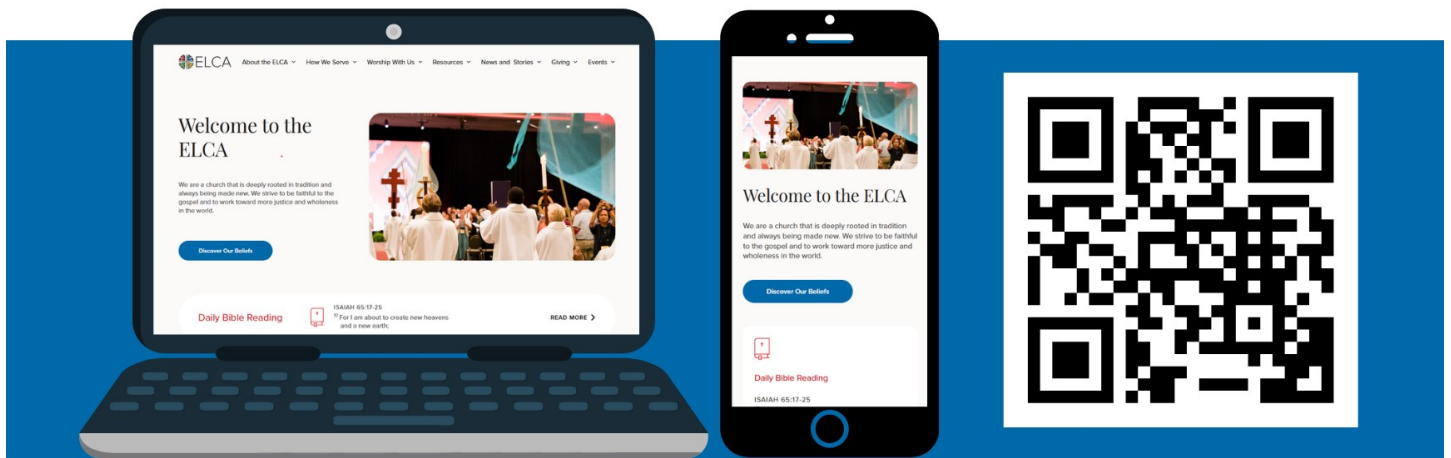
With Holy Week being the first week of April followed by Masters week, there will be no official Property meeting for April.

Our next scheduled meeting is May 2, 2026 at 8am.

Advent has purchased a new lawn mower and equipment to care for the grounds. Phil Hanes and Michael Piccolo are overseeing this new Lawncare Ministry and April will begin this new ministry, so look out for upcoming announcements. We thank Phil and Michael and all who will be helping with this ministry.

Introducing: The new ELCA.org

The ELCA's new website
is now live.



Enjoy these features:

- **Enhanced search:** Get curated answers based on your individual needs.
- **One place to look:** Find and connect with the ministries that help you act out your faith.
- **Made for everyone:** Rest assured that the new ELCA.org follows accessibility best practices.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 AA 8am-9am	2 AA 8am-9am Maundy Thursday 7pm	3 AA 8am-9am Good Friday 7pm	4
5 Easter Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Easter Potluck Brunch & Egg Hunt 10:45am	6 AA 8am-9am	7 AA 8am-9am	8 AA 8am-9am	9 AA 8am-9am	10 AA 8am-9am	11
Master's Week						
12 Worship & Holy Communion New Members New Member Pot- luck Luncheon 10:45am	13 AA 8am-9am Pastor's away on Vacation National Parks 4/13-4/20	14 AA 8am-9am	15 AA 8am-9am Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	16 AA 8am-9am	17 AA 8am-9am	18 Augusta Saturday Market Ministry 8am-2pm
19 Worship 9:30am	20 AA 8am-9am	21 AA 8am-9am	22 AA 8am-9am Bible Study, 10:30am Bells, 6pm Choir, 7pm	23 AA 8am-9am Dare Group Disaster Recovery	24 AA 8am-9am Dare Group Disaster Recovery	25 Dare Group Disaster Recovery
26 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	27 AA 8am-9am Book Group 11am	28 AA 8am-9am	29 AA 8am-9am Bible Study, 10:30am Council, 4:30pm Bells, 6pm Choir, 7pm	30 AA 8am-9am		

Happy April Birthday!

4/2 Noreen Gaynor
4/4 Jessica Aiello
4/8 Philip Hanes
4/8 Ruth Johnson
4/9 Stephanie Wasson
4/13 Roberta Howell
4/13 Holly Sadenwasser
4/15 Meredith Ellie
4/21 Gail Pendergrast
4/22 Maddie Lever
4/24 Tim Peterson
4/26 Jaime Jimenez
4/27 Jordyn Krog
4/29 Lynn Reed
4/29 Jessica Cook
4/30 Jason Richardson

Happy April Anniversary!

4/2 Phil & Carole Hanes
4/16 Fritz & Elaine Mertins
4/29 Jim & Amy Smith
4/30 Sam & Marcy Jimenez
4/30 Curtis & Hope Lingenfelter

*Heidi
O'Connell*
HousefulOfHandmade.com



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**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Deadline For May
Newsletter Entries*
April 28th