

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2022**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jim Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Tony Sikora; Cindy; Darlene Welsh; family of Carolyn Wilkins; family of Barb Myers

**CHOIR REHEARSAL** continues today at 11:30am. There's still time to join us!

**THANK YOU** to Pr. Mullet and to everyone who reached out with cards, prayers, and words of encouragement after Barb's passing. Your support and prayers mean so much to us in this difficult time. -Ken & Bea Myers

**ELDERS & COUNCIL:** this Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00pm & 7:00pm.

**VOTERS' MEETING:** next Sunday, April 10, between services.

**"A SEASON OF HOPE" PROJECT:** This week's item is nail clippers! More info is available on the tables! **We will be assembling these kits during the Bible study hour next Sunday, April 10, right after the voters' meeting.**

**CALENDAR**

Sun. Apr. 3 (Lent 5 - Judica)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School / Bible Study NO CONFIRMATION 11:30am Choir Rehearsal
Tue. Apr. 5	8:30am Greek Study 6:00pm / 7:00pm Elders / Church Council
Wed. Apr. 6	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study 6:00pm Potluck Supper 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Apr. 7	7:00pm Bible Study (Ephesians)
Sun. Apr. 10 (Palm Sunday)	8:00 & 10:00am Divine Service 9:00am Voters' Meeting Assemble Personal Care Kits 11:30am Confirmation ( <i>short! Confirmands only!</i> ) 11:30am Choir Rehearsal

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### What is “Passiontide”?

Passiontide is another name for the last two weeks of Lent. It begins today (the fifth Sunday in Lent) and continues through Holy Week. Lent began with three weeks of readings about spiritual warfare and related topics. Last week, Lent 4 or “Laetare,” was a Sunday of rest and refreshment. Now in the last two weeks of Lent our focus shifts toward the suffering and death of Jesus, hearing in today’s Gospel about His atoning Sacrifice and the attempt on His life in the temple.

Passiontide is set apart slightly from the rest of Lent with two unique things. They both happen only during these two weeks, and they’re both quite unusual and jarring—which is on purpose! They draw our attention to the intensity of our Lord’s suffering and death.

**First**, the Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...) is omitted in the Divine Service, both at the end of the Introit and, even more jarring, at the end of the Nunc Dimittis. The Triune Name is the fullest revelation of God’s Name that He gave to us. We “fast” from using this Name for a short time so that we do not take it for granted when it returns in a couple weeks.

**Second**, our two crosses are veiled with black cloth. This is in direct connection to the last words of the Gospel reading for today, “Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” It seems unusual to cover up the crosses as we get closer to Good Friday, but this is done to remind us that we are not worthy of the sacrifice God made on the cross. The cross is “taken away” for a short time to help us remember just how much we need it. Yet they are not removed, but only covered. They will be unveiled again on Good Friday and, of course, entirely visible on Easter. Faith always sees both the cross *and* the empty tomb.

Both of these things help us depend more and more upon the grace of God in Christ. Passiontide is intense, and Holy Week especially seems dark and dreary. But we are never in doubt about how the story ends. Jesus died, but He is not dead. Jesus lives! Easter is coming. Our Alleluias, our Gloria Patris, our crosses shall all return to us soon enough. But even better than that, we shall have them forever at the resurrection at the last day.